

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

22 March 1985

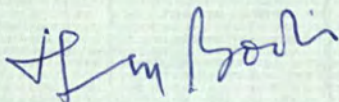
DRUG REPORT

The Report by the Ministerial Group on the misuse of drugs sets out action so far. In the annex, it lists its strategy. There is a glaring omission, namely, no reference is made to the need for new penalties against drug racketeers.

The Home Office does accept the need for new powers to seize the assets of drug Barons. Such will put the onus on the dealers to prove that their property, and their families' and associates' was not gained from drug peddling.

Consequently, it is most surprising that this is not within the strategy of this Committee. It is essential, if the public are to find our policy against drugs to be credible, and, if we are to persuade the international drug merchants to leave the UK, that we include this element in the strategy.

We recommend you request on this minute that the Private Office makes your feelings clear to the Lord President's office before H on Monday morning.

HARTLEY BOOTH

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