



18 APR 1985

PRIME MINISTER

I have seen a copy of the Chief Secretary's minute of 27 March on the review which officials have carried out into the benefits payable to the dependants of public servants who are assassinated. The review followed the death of Mr Kenneth Whitty early last year.

I agree that, in cases where death is attributable to the performance of duty, the transitional pension should be paid for six months, and that the lump sum should be based on six month's salary. If "public outrage" can be satisfactorily defined I would not object to the special lump sum payment mentioned in paragraph 6 of the Chief Secretary's minute. But I share his concern about the suggestion that longer-term benefits might also be improved; the argument that the needs of the widow do not depend upon the nature of her husband's death is difficult to refute, and further pressure for a more general improvement in benefits would be unwelcome, particularly when we are hoping to legislate to control excessive payments in this area.

Copies go to those who received Peter's minute.

P.J.

PATRICK JENKIN

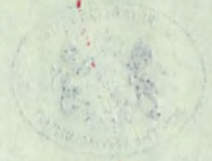
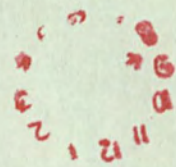
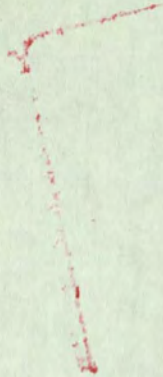


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Assassination

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