



## 10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

8 November 1982

The Prime Minister has seen the minutes of a discussion in H committee about the Lord Privy Seal's memorandum on monitoring equal opportunities in the Civil Service. She has noted that the committee invited the Lord Privy Seal to circulate the draft of the announcement that would accompany publication of the Leeds survey of the ethnic origins of civil servants. The Prime Minister very much hopes that the survey will be presented in such a way as to place its findings in their historical context. In particular, the Prime Minister would like the announcement to stress that fifteen years ago there were virtually no ethnic minorities in the Civil Service and that the survey shows that members of the minorities are gradually making their way into the Service at a reasonable rate. The announcement should also stress that the Government is and will remain a fair employer and that there is no evidence of discrimination against members of the ethnic minorities in the Civil Service. The Government's policy is and will remain to recruit the best qualified and most suitable candidates to the public service regardless of colour or creed.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the Lord Privy Seal's draft announcement to be sent to the Prime Minister at the same time as it is circulated to members of H committee.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Colin Walters (Home Office).

TIM FLESHER

Mrs Mary Brown  
Lord Privy Seal's Office