

to Burke Trend

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~~MR NORBURY~~

MR WADDELL'S GROUP

Sir Burke Trend will by now have received Mr Waddell's letter of 15 January about the circulation to Ministers of papers dealing with the NUM and Claimants' Unions.

Mr Herman has suggested in the attached minute that, for the NUM paper, the circulation should be the same as for SPL(72)1 (The Impact of Subversive Groups on Trade Union Activity), which is the only paper so far sent to Ministers. The recipients were:

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Prime Minister
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
" " " " Defence (personal capacity)
" " " " the Home Department
" " " " Scotland
" " " " Employment

I agree that it would be appropriate to use the same list on this occasion. There is however the question whether a copy should also go to the Lord Privy Seal. There is in principle much to be said for this, because the information is highly relevant to him in his capacity as Chairman of CCU; but I think that this is something on which Sir Burke may first wish to consult the Prime Minister.

The paper on Claimants' Unions might have the same circulation, but with the addition of a copy to the Secretary of State for Social Services (though if Sir Burke Trend is discussing circulation with the Prime Minister, he might wish to mention this point also). If a copy is sent to Sir Keith Joseph, it would not be necessary to send him the covering note suggested in Mr Waddell's letter; but he would have to be given some brief information about the Group, of whose existence he is not formally aware. A note on the following lines might serve:-

A Group of Officials was set up in September 1972 to supervise and direct the collection of intelligence about threats to the internal security of Great Britain arising from subversive activities, particularly in industry; and to make regular reports to the Ministers

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concerned. The Group is chaired by Mr J H Waddell (Home Office) and consists of representatives of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Scottish Office, the Department of Employment, the Security Service, the Special Branch, Metropolitan Police, and the Cabinet Office. Their work has included the preparation of a paper about Claimants' Unions, and a copy of this is attached.

Paragraph 4 of Mr Herman's minute describes the present position on current assessments. I shall be keeping in touch with developments.

16.1.1973

cc Mr Herman
Mr Moss

PB
P Benner

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MR. BENNER

MR. WADDELL'S GROUP

I met Mr. Waddell this morning and collected the agreed text of the NUM report. We decided that this should be issued in final form to officials. At Mr. Waddell's request, this is being done as quickly as possible; we should have it typed for issue late to-day or early tomorrow (Tuesday).

2. You may like to see a copy of Mr. Waddell's covering note to Sir Burke Trend. It does not in fact make a recommendation for distribution of the two reports to Ministers, as Mr. Waddell prefers to leave this to Sir Burke. My recommendations for distribution (which you asked should be put via you) are:-

- (a) The NUM Report: The Prime Minister
 Secretary of State for Foreign and
 Commonwealth Affairs
 Secretary of State for Defence
 (in his personal capacity)
 Secretary of State for the Home
 Department
 Secretary of State for Scotland
 Secretary of State for Employment

This was the distribution given to SPL(72)1, The Impact of Subversive Groups on Trade Union Activity, which was the only report previously sent to Ministers. (I am sorry that I omitted the Foreign Secretary when we spoke about this earlier. He was on Sir Burke's original list of Ministers to receive the

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Group product, presumably on account, inter alia, of IRD's responsibilities.)

(b) The Claimants' Union
Report:

As above, plus

Secretary of State,
Department of Health and
Social Security.

(In addition, distribution to the Lord Privy Seal might be considered, in view of possible effects of Claimants Unions' activities on the Civil Service.)

3. The Ministers at (a) above had all had the following explanation from me of the Group's composition and rôle in October:

The Group of Officials set up to study Subversion in Public Life was formed in September 1972 to supervise and direct the collection of intelligence about threats to the internal security of Great Britain arising from subversive activities, particularly in industry; and to make regular reports to the Ministers concerned. The Group is chaired by Mr. J. H. Waddell (Home Office) and consists of representatives of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Scottish Office, the Department of Employment, the Security Service, the Special Branch, Metropolitan Police, and the Cabinet Office.

This explanation has not gone to the Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Security. If Sir Burke Trend approves distribution to the Secretary of State, arrangements will need to be made to provide something on these lines in a covering letter.

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4. You may wish to know of plans for the "sub-group" dealing with current assessments. I have been asked to arrange for a meeting at 3.00 p.m. in Room 215 on Thursday, 18th. The object is to produce the first of the weekly Assessments, or at least to conduct a dry run. Mr. Waddell is going to attend, with Mr. Wright of the Home Office. Others will be Mr. Smith (Department of Employment), Mr. Jones (Security Service) (Security Service, but their nominee to join the Assessments Staff to produce these industrial assessments). I have been invited to provide "such JIC attendance as may be necessary", and will be going myself; I shall be asking the Chief of the Assessments Staff whether he will wish to attend. I assume that you will not wish to attend or send a representative to the sub-group, but would want to be a customer for its material.

M. E. Herman

[M. E. HERMAN]

15 January, 1973.

Enclosure: Copy of Mr. Waddell's covering note to Sir Burke Trend.

Copies to: Mr. Cradock)
 Mr. Moss) without enclosure

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