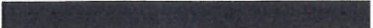



**E.R.**



NOTE OF A MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 1985


**DRUGS**Present: Home Secretary  

 had asked to see the Home Secretary to discuss drugs issues and drew his attention to his intervention in a debate on the policing of the Metropolis (OR attached) as well as an article by Mr Ian Aitken in the Guardian (copy attached) which he said concisely summarised his own views.

Legalisation of Cannabis

2.  said that cannabis should be treated differently from other drugs, and it was established that it did not induce a craving for hard drugs. He therefore proposed that people should be allowed to buy small quantities of cannabis at high prices on prescription from their GP. The GP would charge a substantial fee for this prescription in order to cover the cost of regular medical check-ups. One advantage of this system would be the collation of reliable medical evidence on the use of cannabis. The small quantity of cannabis would be available at one chemist in each area who would charge a price high enough to cover his time in keeping a register of the amounts prescribed, but not so high that a black market would be promoted.

 thought that the principal benefit of this system of legalisation of cannabis was in improved community relations. Since the police would no longer be obliged to search for cannabis on young blacks there would be a decline in the number of instances which led to friction between them and ethnic minorities. The Home Secretary drew attention to the fact that many West Indians did not favour the legalisation of cannabis. 

 felt that the supply of cannabis within the system he had described would make it much less attractive and would therefore result in a long-term decline in its use. The Home Secretary questioned whether this system was really viable.

Private Office  
12.11.85  
Private Secretary

E.R.

NOTE OF HOME SECRETARY'S MORNING MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 1985

Present: Home Secretary



MATTERS DISCUSSED

CONCLUSIONS

1.




2.




3.



4.

DRUGS: MEETING ON 11 NOVEMBER  
WITH 

 might advance the idea of legalising cannabis, and the Home Secretary would disabuse him of any hope that this would be supported by the Government.

5.



6.



7.



8.

