

SECRET

FEBRUARY 26, 1986

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO EQUALITY FOR ALL:

1. THREE REVISED RESPONSES

- PRIME MINISTER WILL ASK YOU TO DISCUSS CHANGES IN WORDING OF THREE RESPONSES,
- THE PROPOSED CHANGES ARE MINOR TO BRING RESPONSES UP TO DATE WITH ADOPTION OF NEW STANDING ORDERS:
 - No. 45 (MANDATE OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE DISABLED AND THE HANDICAPPED);
 - No. 73 (COMPOSITION OF GIC APPOINTMENTS);
 - No. 83 (STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS).

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2. DATE OF RESPONSE (MARCH 4, 1986)

- P&P DISCUSSION OF RESPONSE TO FOCUS ON WOMEN IN COMBAT, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, PRIMACY OF HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION.
- IF AGREEMENT IS NOT REACHED, PRIME MINISTER MAY ASK YOUR VIEWS ON TWO OPTIONS FOR A FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE MARCH 4 DEADLINE.

OPTION 1: NEGOTIATE NEW EXTENSION WITH OPPOSITION PARTIES.

PROS - GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE ALL PARTY SUPPORT.

CONS - APPEARS NDP WILL NOT AGREE; MAY REQUIRE QUI PRO QUO.

OR

OPTION 2: TABLE INTERIM RESPONSE ON MARCH 4 STATING NEW DATE.

PROS - NO NEED TO NEGOTIATE WITH OPPOSITION.

CONS - WOULD OCCASION SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL AND COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS FOR THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF THE REPEATED DELAYS.

- REQUIRE COMMUNICATIONS PLAN TO OFFSET POLITICAL CRITICISM.

RECOMMENDATION

- IF NECESSARY, OPTION 2 (PRELIMINARY RESPONSE), COMMUNICATIONS PLAN.