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PQ 8530B

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→ DI 55 **Section 40**
Ops (GE) 2b (RAF)
Head of DS 8
DPR (RAF)

Head of S4 (Air)

LORDS DEBATE ON UFOs : 18th JANUARY 1979

Thank you for your minutes D/S4(Air)/8/3 of 15th and 16th January forwarding a revised draft of the speech for Lord Strabolgi and additional background information respectively.

// 2. I have discussed the revised speech with Lord Strabolgi and have made further - largely editorial - amendments. I attach a copy of a letter which I handed to Lord Strabolgi last night together with a fresh copy of the speech itself. Lord Strabolgi will be reading the speech again today and will let me know as soon as possible whether he wishes to have the briefing meeting which you and **Section 40** have pencilled in for 1130 tomorrow.

3. You might like to know that the debate is causing a fair amount of interest in the House of Lords. In addition to the Earl of Clancarty others taking part will include (in the following order) Lord Trefgarne, the Earl of Kimberley, Viscount St Davids, Lords Rankeillour, Kings-Norton, Gladwyn and Hewlett, the Bishop of Norwich, Earl Halsbury and Viscount Oxfuird (who will be making his maiden speech).

4. We will not know for certain when the UFO debate will start. It depends, of course, on how long the earlier business takes, but it is unlikely to start before 1800. We will keep in touch with the House of Lords throughout the course of tomorrow afternoon and early evening and we will let you know as soon as we are needed. The debate is likely to last for between two and three hours.

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