

Mr Bernie Grant MP
 House of Commons
 London
 SW1A 0AA

4th July 1995

I appreciate that at the end of July you will be starting a well-earned break from your many commitments, but if you are to be in London on 28 July and can find the time, I would be very grateful if you could attend a briefing by me at 10 am at New Scotland Yard.

The following week, Thursday 3 August, I shall be launching an important police operation to combat street robbery and I think it is important to tell you about it.

When I talk about crime figures, I always add a health warning to the effect that we should really simply use them to identify trends. In London over the last two years, the trend has shown a reduction in reported crime. However, within that trend there is another which gives me cause for concern. That is that crimes of violence against people showed a marked and unacceptable increase.

Most crimes of violence are committed by people who are well known to their victims, but there is a worrying upward trend in the number of street robberies - the kind of offence we generally call 'mugging' and which nearly always involves some form of violence.

-2-

It is a fact that very many of the perpetrators of muggings are very young black people, who have been excluded from school and/or are unemployed. I am sure I do not need to spell out the sensitivity of dealing with this crime problem which is, of course, much more than just a police problem.

I would welcome the opportunity to talk to you and your colleagues about it on 28 July, though I do appreciate the problems you might have with that date. I have also invited some other interested people to that meeting, including members of Consultative Groups.

Please let my secretary know if you will be able to attend. The number is 0171 230 2346 or 3838

I look forward to seeing you.

P L Condon