

MEMORANDUM

**CE 23**

from: Dr. K.F. Bowden, Computing Science  
to: The Secretary,  
Committee of Enquiry,  
Room 5A.108, Social & Comparative Studies Building

Comments on the Statement of Principle circulated

(a) Statement (a) is ambiguous; its implications being that just as any group or individual shall have the right to come to this University and communicate their views, so any group or individual shall have the right to interfere with such a procedure in order to communicate their views.

(b) That part of (b) up to and including "...action through the Courts)", I regard as a right within an intellectual community. However, in such a community I would have thought that because the overwhelming preponderance of people are able to communicate their views rationally, they should be able to communicate disagreement and adverse views in this way. These views should be expressed with respect for the nature of any meeting concerned rather than resorting to the mass techniques of demonstrations and heckling.

I believe this is particularly important in an intellectual community and suitable cooperation on this by all concerned could put a community such as ours in high esteem. I further believe that such a principle being adhered to will make it much easier to invite speakers who are thought to have undesirable or repugnant views or knowledge. To this end it is desirable always to be able to arrange extensive discussion periods at the end of lectures at which topics other than the lecture may be openly and freely discussed. This is particularly important when an invited speaker is known to have controversial views about either a related or non-related topic.

(c) This does not differentiate at all between the shifting of grounds for discussion controlled and permitted by the Chairman and the deliberate interference with a stated and named lecture. Acceptance of the principles elucidated above with reference to an intellectual community such as our own will render this clause un-necessary.

I believe that adherence to the afore-mentioned principles will demonstrate that its codes of conduct are well above the level for which State Legislation has been created.

*K. Bowden*

PP DR. K. F. BOWDEN

KFB/JMT  
14.6.68.