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AUTUMN 1986 DIRECTIVE

This Directive is in three parts.

Part I Please write a Self-Portrait, see Page .2 of General Information for more about this.

Part II Mass-Observation has from the very beginning been concerned to record what people really experience and think as opposed to media assessments of the nation's mood or, for that matter, what politicians say 'people' or the 'British public' 'want', 'feel', or 'are fed up with'. Now, 1986 seems to have been an eventful year. But what have been the major national and international events, and how much do we really remember? As soon as you have read through this Directive and before discussing it with anyone else, please make a note both of the major events of 1986 in the order in which you remember them, and the month in which you think they occurred.

Again before discussing them with other people comment on your reaction at the time and the reactions of other people as you recall them. This would be the place to note comments overheard, remarks made in shops, etc.

Now, if the opportunity arises, by all means check your view of 1986 with the views of others. If you do report other people's reactions, please observe the anonymity rule (see Page 2).

I am quite ready, and so should you be, to hear that private and domestic events of all sorts have often pushed public events into the background. For one of our diarists, 1982 was a big year because her first grandchild was born; not surprisingly, the conflict in the Falklands came a poor second in her records of that year! It is essential that this sort of thing be recorded.

Part III Among our most prized records are the Day Diaries. These are records of one day's events, from the moment of rising to going to bed. Any day in the Christmas Holiday period, preferably 25 December itself, is our target this time. whether you celebrate Christmas or not, please write a Day Diary. One way of setting about it might be to write very brief notes every hour (or dictate them to someone else if your hands are full!) and then write up your notes when you have more leisure, but as soon as possible, of course, while memory is still fresh. If Christmas Day itself is quite impossible, then select any day during the period up to and including New Year's Day 1987.

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