

Confidential filing

Leaks to Peter Hennessy of The Times about the recruitment of accountants to the civil service and the OCU study of volunteer strike-breakers.

SECURITY



SP  
836

July 1980

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>21.7.80</del>							
<del>23.7.80</del>							
<del>30.7.80</del>							
<del>26.11.80</del>							
<del>16.12.80</del>							
<del>19.12.81</del>							
<del>10.2.81</del>							
19.2.81							

PREM 19/593



CONFIDENTIAL



*Security*

CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Telephone 01 273 5400

*Sir Ian Bancroft G.C.B.  
Head of the Home Civil Service*

*ML*

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO  
Cabinet Office  
Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2AS

*19*

19 February 1981

*Dear Sir Robert,*

Thank you for your letter of 10 February and for sending me the report by Dennis Payne and John Stevens about their investigation into the apparent leaks which led to an article by Peter Hennessy in The Times on 19 November 1980.

I am grateful for the effort which has been put into this and agree that there is no point in pursuing the enquiries further. However in the light of the last paragraph of the report, I have discussed with Brian Gilmore, the Principal of the College, whether it might be feasible to cut down the opportunities which the College provides for Peter Hennessy. There is, of course, no suggestion that these Courses are the source of any of the leaks and it would, I believe, be wrong to try and freeze him out altogether; apart from anything else Hennessy is one of the few journalists who are also good lecturers. But Brian Gilmore will take discreet steps to ensure that Hennessy gets no more than his share of invitations, without arousing suspicion.

I am copying this letter only to Douglas Wass and Clive Whitmore.

*Yours sincerely,  
Jeremy Colman*

*for* IAN BANCROFT

CONFIDENTIAL

C A Whitmore Esq



*Security*  
— ✓

CABINET OFFICE

With the compliments of  
Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO  
*Secretary of the Cabinet*

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS  
Telephone: 01-233 8319



CONFIDENTIAL



CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

*From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO*

*mu*  
*11/2*

Ref. A04236

10 February 1981

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Dennis Payne and John Stevens have submitted their report of their investigations into the apparent leaks which led to an article by Peter Hennessy in *The Times* on 19 November 1980, concerning the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU). Their report is attached.

Despite the extent of their enquiries nothing emerged to pinpoint responsibility for the leaks. The Prime Minister agreed that Ministers could be included within the scope of the enquiry, but as the investigators decided at an early stage that the principal offender was likely to be some way removed from high authority they concluded that their enquiries would not be furthered by involving Ministers. I believe that the matter has been taken as far as it usefully can be, and that no good purpose would be served by continuing with the investigation.

I am copying this to Douglas Wass, Brian Cubbon, Peter Carey, Frank Cooper, Ken Barnes, Brian Hayes, John Garlick, Kerr Fraser, Trevor Hughes, Ken Stowe, Pat Nairne, Donald Maitland, Peter Baldwin, Jim Nursaw, Clive Whitmore and Robert Wade-Gery.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Sir Ian Bancroft GCB

CONFIDENTIAL



S 03499

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

1. You asked us to investigate the apparent leaks which lead to an article by Peter Hennessy in The Times on 19 November 1980, concerning the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU). A copy is attached.
  
2. Hennessy has written a number of articles about the CCU; one concerning, principally, Brigadier Bishop, appeared in The Times on 18 November 1980. The timing of his article on 19 November was almost certainly inspired by information which he had got about a meeting of the CCU which was held on 30 October under the Chairmanship of the Home Secretary, and which was attended by Ministers. There is nothing in the article to suggest that he saw a copy of the minutes of that meeting, in which there was no indication that there had been serious differences between Ministers about the use of civilian volunteers during stoppages. (The article was headed "Cabinet Split on use of Volunteers during Stoppages".) The likelihood is that he used the occasion to print stories which he had obtained from contacts in Whitehall over a period of months. Clearly, some parts of the article were based on sound information. Mr Frank Elders of DOE wrote to the Secretary of the Local Authorities Conditions of Service Advisory Board about the use of volunteers in local authority services in April 1980. It was agreed by Ministers in March, 1980 that there were considerable doubts about the practicability and effectiveness of the TA in trade disputes.
  
3. We are confident that Hennessy's information was gathered in discussion with contacts in Whitehall. Some of the informants would have given away information without being aware that they had transgressed, but at least one must consciously have been indiscreet and irresponsible. Because of the fundamental inaccuracy in the article about there having been a fierce dispute among Ministers, it seems likely that the principal offender was some way removed from high authority. CCU reports and minutes have a wide distribution.



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The minutes of the meeting of 30 October were circulated to 93 named recipients in Departments represented on the CCU. Some of these received more than one copy for distribution in their Departments.

4. In these circumstances we agreed with the major Departments concerned (a list is attached), at a meeting on 13 December 1980 that they would send a questionnaire (copy attached) to officials who had seen a record of the meeting on 30 October. It was further agreed that Hennessy's contacts were unlikely to include very junior staff and it was left to the Departments to decide to whom the questionnaire should be sent. A number of small Departments and Offices whose officials had seen a record of the meeting also used the questionnaire.

5. The results obtained from the questionnaire and from supplementary questioning are now available. Of the officials who completed the questionnaire 27 had met or spoken to Hennessy at some time. Of those, 4 had had contact with him around the time of the article but none had discussed CCU matters with him.

6. The inquiries have produced no lead to the identity of the culprit, or culprits, and there is no likelihood of success if we attempt to continue the investigation. Hennessy and his editor are aware that enquiries were made, and it is possible that his contacts among officials will have taken note and will be more cautious in the future. It is worth noting that in addition to the normal opportunities open to a Times journalist, Hennessy has opportunities to make new contacts when he lectures at the Civil Service College at Sunningdale. For example he lectures to the Middle Management Course on "The Press and the Civil Service".

D H PAYNE  
J W STEVENS

9 February 1981



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SECURITY

ALB



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

MR. STEVENS  
CABINET OFFICE

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Thank you for your letter of 13 January, about the leak investigation into Peter Hennessy's article in the Times of 19 November.

Copies of the questionnaire have been completed by the twelve members of staff in No. 10 who are known to have handled copies of the papers in question. I understand that a thirteenth, Mr. Ingham, has already sent one directly to you.

Other members of our Confidential Filing team will have handled the papers in transit between desks in the Private Office. I doubt whether any useful purpose will be served by inviting any of them to complete a form, as they will not be able to distinguish these particular papers in their memories. I am not aware of anyone in No. 10 having dictated material based upon these papers, and I have not therefore invited any of the secretarial staff to complete a questionnaire.

M. A. PATTISON

19 January 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

9.



MR. WHITMORE  
MR. ALEXANDER  
MR. LANKESTER  
MR. SANDERS  
MR. WOLFSON  
MR. INGHAM  
MR. GAFFIN  
MR. VEREKER  
MR. ANSON  
MISS LUKE  
MISS DRUMMOND  
MRS. CREANE

Mr. Patterson

I have sent one  
direct to

Mr. Previn

H

I should be grateful if you would complete the attached form in relation to a leak enquiry concerning CCU papers. Could I please have it back by close of play on 20 January.

MAJ

15 January 1981



289

MR. WHITMORE  
MR. ALEXANDER  
MR. LANKESTER  
MR. SANDERS  
MR. WOLFSON  
MR. INGHAM  
MR. GAFFIN  
MR. VEREKER  
MR. ANSON  
MISS LUKE  
MISS DRUMMOND  
MRS. CREANE

I should be grateful if you would complete the attached form in relation to a leak enquiry concerning CCU papers. Could I please have it back by close of play on 20 January.

MAJ

15 January 1981



The attached article by Peter Bennessy from the Times of 19 November 1980 appears to reflect knowledge of matters considered at a meeting of the Civil Contingencies Unit on 30 October 1980; moreover it appears that this knowledge could not have been gained solely from unauthorised access to the memorandum there considered (CCU(80)19), or from the minutes of the meeting (CCU(80)9th meeting).

It has been decided in this case to conduct full enquiries under the inter-departmental leak procedure, and you are asked to be good enough to answer the questions below and to return this sheet to J W STEVENS as soon as possible.

Will you please say whether you have ever met or spoken to Peter Bennessy.

YES/NO

If you have:-

(i) When did you last see or speak to him? .....

.....

(ii) What did you talk about? .....

.....

(iii) Have you ever talked with him at any time about the Civil Contingencies Unit or any civil contingency matter?

.....

.....

Did you have access to either the memorandum considered at the meeting on 30 October or to the minutes?

YES/NO

Did you communicate any information about the Civil Contingencies Unit or any civil contingency matter to anyone else?

YES/NO

If so, please say to whom .....

Signature .....

Name .....  
(in block capitals)

Date .....

If you need any further information before completing this sheet, please ring J W STEVENS on 233 8238.

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Government  
 Echoes of the General Strike in hardliners' plan

Cabinet split on use of civilian volunteers during stoppages

By Peter Hennessy

A fierce dispute among ministers about whether it is desirable or practical for the Government to muster civilian volunteers to replace striking workers in essential industries and services in a winter of discontent is still unresolved after eight months of discussion.

Should the hardliners in the Cabinet triumph and a rash of industrial disputes materialize, the country could witness the introduction of non-service personnel on a substantial scale for the first time since the General Strike of 1926.

The argument has taken place inside a secret Cabinet committee, the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU), chaired by Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, who has grave reservations about the plan and given leadership to the doves. Prominent among the hawks have been Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade.

Confidential discussions with local authority associations, carried out during the summer by Mr Frank Elders of the Department of the Environ-

ment's defence planning and emergencies division, met with a cool and sceptical response.

The softliners have so far achieved one notable victory in killing the idea that the 70,000-strong Territorial Army should be used alongside Regulars in substituting for striking workers under the procedure known as military aid to the civil ministries.

With considerable difficulty Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Defence, persuaded the Prime Minister that the basic military purpose of the country's reserve forces could be jeopardized, especially as many reservists are trade unionists should they be used in strikebreaking activities.

The idea of involving the Territorials had great appeal for Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the hawks as winter crises tend to stretch the regular forces to near breaking point. A maximum of 20,000 regulars can be used in industrial disputes at any one time without weakening the country's contribution to Nato or its role in Northern Ireland. An upper ceiling of 30,000 can be reached if withdrawals are made from the British Army of the Rhine.

Mrs Thatcher has also been persuaded that Territorial Army drill halls should not be used for the mustering of civilian volunteers.

The CCU, which normally convenes as a mixed committee of ministers and civil servants, met as a purely ministerial body, with only official minute-takers present, in the Cabinet Office two weeks ago to try to resolve the fundamental disagreement between hawks and doves. The discussion, which passed through some rough patches, focused on a paper prepared by the committee's secretary, Brigadier Richard Bishop, which set out the pros and cons of summoning and using a civilian volunteer force.

The meeting proved inconclusive and the expectation in Whitehall is that the Prime Minister will have to intervene to resolve the impasse fairly swiftly before the preliminary skirmishes of the 1980-81 strike season develop into a full-blooded winter of discontent. There is some nervousness inside the contingency planning community which, with a few exceptions is against the idea of civilian volunteers, that Mrs Thatcher will side with the hawks.

Letters, page 13

Bouncers' violence 'unacceptable'

should not be renewed", the board says. Its harsh words are likely to renew public concern about the behaviour of some bouncers and to increase pressure for regulation.

Some bouncers, the report says, regard themselves as licensed to use as much violence as they like. Employers turn a blind eye.

The board says it has been notified of cases "in which we have unhesitatingly concluded that applicants who suffered injuries at the hands of bouncers were innocent victims in every sense of the phrase, in that they had done nothing wrong at all and, even if mis-

takenly thought to have done so, were subjected to wholly unnecessary and extreme violence".

There is also concern about football violence. The board is making an increasing number of awards to police officers injured at matches and to innocent bystanders injured by bottles, beer cans and bricks.

The year's highest award, £80,026, was paid to a young Serviceman who in 1976, at the age of 23, was attacked with an axe by a fellow Serviceman. Sixteenth Report and Accounts of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, (cmd 8081, Stationery Office, £8.70).

Woman, 60, died after vandals attacked home

Shortly after vandals had broken bottles and a window at the home of a woman aged 60 she collapsed in her husband's arms, an inquest at Newcastle upon Tyne was told.

Dr James Sunter, the pathologist, said Mrs Mary Slee was suffering from advanced heart disease and her death last week was caused by acute cardiac failure.

Mr Patrick Cuff, the coroner, said it was not possible to prove "a causal connexion". He recorder a verdict of natural causes.

HY WASTE





10 DOWNING STREET

Mr Pattison

Paper CCU(80) 19 was circulated on 8/10/80 as usual, under cover and personally addressed to:-

MR. WOLFSON - Copy No 4

MR. INGHAM - Copy No 5

Copies 1 and 2 were circulated in the private office while copies 3 and 6 remained in CF.

CCU(80) 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were circulated on 4/11/80 exactly as outlined above. Both were entered and distributed by Miss Wheatley. All copies are accounted for

Alexandra Jones  
15.1.81.



Security



XXXXXX  
01 233 8238

CABINET OFFICE  
70 WHITEHALL  
LONDON SW1A 2AS

*Alan*  
Could I please have a  
note on our circulation  
of the relevant CCU  
papers.

13 January 1981

Our Ref: S 03877

*MJP*  
*14/1*

Dear *Mr. Pattison*Leak Investigation:Peter Hennessy's Article, The Times 19 November

I am sorry that my absence from the Office prevented me following up the brief discussion we had right after Christmas about the leak investigation into Peter Hennessy's article. I think we left matters on the basis that I would write to you and that you would consider how best to proceed. I mentioned that I had also spoken to Bernard Ingham, and that he had kindly suggested that the best way to include his side in the investigation would be for me to come around and speak directly to those involved. I hope to contact him later this week about a convenient time.

The background to the investigation, which is now almost completed, is that it appears that Hennessy's article (a copy of which is attached) might be based, at least in part, on information obtained about a meeting of the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) on 30 October 1980. The article contained some inaccuracies - the assertion that there was a "fierce dispute" among Ministers was wrong and, although there was some discussion at the meeting about the use of the TA in a trade dispute, this was not mentioned in the minutes. Because of these inaccuracies the preliminary conclusion is that Hennessy did not see a record of the meeting (CCU(80)9th Meeting) or the memorandum there considered (CCU(80)19 dated 8 October), and that we are most likely to be dealing with an oral leak by someone some way removed from high authority.

Enquiries have centred on those departments who were represented at the CCU meeting, but there are several other departments and offices, of which No 10 is, not surprisingly, one, who received copies of both the memorandum and the minutes and who ought, therefore, to be included within the scope of the inquiry.

I attach a copy of the questionnaire being used by the departments represented on CCU, and I should be grateful if you would consider whether this should also be used within your own area. I leave it entirely to you to decide whether it should be used, and if so how widely it need be circulated. You may consider that it would be more appropriate to make any necessary enquiries by other means, ie direct questioning of those who saw the memorandum and/or the minutes of the meeting.

Whatever the approach you decide to adopt I should be most grateful if you could let me know the outcome of any enquiries you decide to make, as soon as you conveniently can. Enquiries are being limited to officials at this stage.

Mr M A Pattison





If there is any further information you need do please let me know. I am copying this to Bernard Ingham - with apologies to him also for the delay in coming back to him. I have also told Charles Rylands of what is afoot.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Stevens". The signature is written in a cursive style.

J W STEVENS

Mr M A Pattison  
No 10 Downing Street

Enc



CONFIDENTIAL

MR. SANDERS

The Times London Diary: CCU Leak

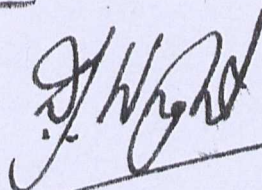
You asked for a form of words which the Prime Minister could use in the House this afternoon if reference was made to the London Diary item in today's "Times" about Peter Hennessy of The Times and Richard Norton-Taylor of The Guardian being under investigation by MI5.

2. Sir Robert Armstrong minuted Clive Whitmore about Peter Hennessy's article in The Times of 19th November about the Civil Contingencies Unit. The leak of the information in this article is being investigated. But regrettably part of the penalty of undertaking enquiries into a leak of information is that, because the net needs to be cast so wide there is a real risk that the fact that an inquiry has been launched may leak. This has now happened.

3. *Passage deleted and retained under Section 3(4).  
Wayland, 13/9/11*

There is no question of the journalists themselves being under an investigation. What the inquiry seeks to do is to establish the source of Hennessy's information.

4. A very preliminary conclusion from the enquiries so far is that neither Hennessy nor The Times has seen or is in possession of, papers concerning the CCU; such evidence as there is points to an oral leak by someone who seems likely to be some way removed from high authority. Because of that preliminary view Ministers have not yet been included within the scope of the inquiry, although the Prime Minister has agreed that they could be.



(D. J. Wright)

16th December 1980





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DRAFT SPEAKING NOTE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

The London Diary item is inaccurate in a number of respects. It is a long-standing and normal practice for Government Departments to make enquiries if it appears that there has been an unauthorised disclosure of classified information. There appears to have been such disclosures in this case, and these are being investigated in the normal way. The investigation is not being conducted by the Security Service.

If Pressed:

I do not propose to comment on the details of how these enquiries are being conducted. The usual procedure, which has operated under both Administrations is being followed.



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*Security*

405 7641 Ext. 3291

Communications on this subject should  
be addressed to  
THE LEGAL SECRETARY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS,  
LAW OFFICERS' DEPARTMENT,  
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,  
LONDON, W.C.2.

Our Ref: 400/80/349

26 November 1980

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO  
Cabinet Office  
Whitehall  
LONDON S W 1

*fwl*  
*27/11*

*Dear Robert,*

LEAK INVESTIGATION: PETER HENNESSY'S ARTICLE 19 NOVEMBER

I refer to your letter of 20 November to Ian Bancroft  
and his reply of 24 November.

The Attorney General is content with what is pro-  
posed but would be grateful for the opportunity to consider  
at a later stage whether the investigation should be  
continued by the police. That decision must depend on the  
precise nature of the information leaked and whether there  
is any likelihood of identifying those responsible.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Jim Nursaw*

J NURSAW

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CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AZ  
Telephone 01 273 5400

*Sir Ian Bancroft G.C.B.  
Head of the Home Civil Service*

*Security*

*FWJ  
26x*

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO  
Cabinet Office  
Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2AS

24 November 1980

*My dear Robert,*

LEAK INVESTIGATION: PETER HENNESSY'S ARTICLE 19 NOVEMBER

Thank you for your letter of 20 November about this further leak on civil contingency matters.

I entirely agree that these persistent leaks are all too damaging and, as you know, I would be much happier if some of our investigators could identify culprits sufficiently clearly for us to take severe disciplinary action against them. Nevertheless I am sure that we must continue to make inquiries in appropriate cases and this seems to be one of those. Subject to the views of the Attorney General, I am therefore content for you to proceed and to use Denis Payne to lead the investigation. Given the magnitude of the task however we shall be glad to offer the assistance of one of our panel members if you think this would be helpful: perhaps John Stevens could liaise with Rex Davie on this as necessary.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

*In ever,  
Ian*

IAN BANCROFT

CONFIDENTIAL





Security

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute AO3606 of 19 November 1980 about Mr. Peter Hennessy's article in The Times of 19 November about the work of the Civil Contingencies Unit.

She agrees that there should be an inquiry into this leak and that it should be extended to embrace Ministers within its scope.

RAW.

24 November 1980





## CABINET OFFICE

With the compliments of  
Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO  
*Secretary of the Cabinet*

C. A. Whitmore, Esq.

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS  
Telephone: 01-233 8319



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1. Mr. [unclear] ✓  
To see

CABINET OFFICE

2. PA.

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

MW  
2/x

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO

20th November, 1980

Ref. A03608

Times Article 19th November by Peter Hennessy

Peter Hennessy's article in yesterday's Times represents yet another serious and embarrassing leak. This is not the first which has occurred on civil contingency matters. You will recall his articles on 17th and 18th July, about civil servants being instructed to assess the feasibility of using civilian volunteers to replace striking workers in essential industries. On that occasion it did not prove necessary to mount a formal inquiry, because it was quickly established that the source document was very likely a DOE MINIS return and that the channel to Peter Hennessy was probably through the DOE trade union side.

We are all aware of the damaging effect that persistent leaks can have, not only on the conduct of government business, but also on relationships between colleagues and between officials and Ministers. In my judgment the content and scope of yesterday's article, coming on top of earlier articles about the CCU, leaves me with no alternative to proposing that a full interdepartmental investigation should be mounted to try and identify the source of the leak.

To lead the inquiry I would propose Mr. Denis Payne of the Cabinet Office (who as you know played a major part in the recent Ministry of Defence inquiry). He will be assisted as necessary by John Stevens. We can supplement their efforts later if it proves necessary to do so.

I do not underestimate the magnitude of the task, bearing in mind the number of departments represented in the Civil Contingencies Unit; and I recognise that on the past experience of similar inquiries the prospects of success cannot be rated particularly high. But I do not think that that should prevent us from mounting an inquiry.

/I am

Sir Ian Bancroft, GCB

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I am copying this letter to Douglas Wass, Brian Cubbon, Peter Carey, Frank Cooper, Ken Barnes, Brian Hayes, John Garlick, Kerr Fraser, Trevor Hughes, Ken Stowe, Pat Nairne, Donald Maitland and Peter Baldwin: in other words, to the Permanent Secretaries of all the departments represented on the CCU. It also goes to Jim Nursaw in the Attorney General's Chambers and to Clive Whitmore, No. 10. I propose also to seek the Prime Minister's agreement to include Ministers within the scope of the inquiry.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

CONFIDENTIAL



010  
This is a copy. The original  
has been extracted and  
retained under S.3(4)

From: Minister,  
Agree with Minister's answer  
come within the scope of the  
inquiry?  
The  
20x1

Ref. A03606

MR. WHITMORE

Thank you for your minute of 18th November about Mr. Peter Hennessy's article in that day's Times about the Civil Contingencies Unit.

2. That day's article was no more than gossip column stuff about Brigadier Bishop, and as such did not seem to me to justify a leak inquiry.

3. I take a very different view of today's article, which reports Ministerial disagreements about the use of volunteers in emergencies. This follows earlier articles by Mr. Hennessy on 17th and 18th July.

4. The source document for the leak on 17th July was one of the Department of the Environment's MINIS returns, which had been copied to the Department of the Environment's trade union side. We hoped that that discovery, and the action taken as a result of it, would have prevented further leaks by that channel. It seems that the leak continues - though not necessarily through that channel; and I have come to the conclusion that we should now formally investigate it.

5. I am proposing accordingly to Sir Ian Bancroft. I have spoken to him informally and I understand that he is likely to agree. I hope that the Prime Minister will agree that Ministers should be included within the scope of the inquiry.

Paragraph 6 deleted and retained under Section 3(4).

OWayland  
13/9/11

RTA

(Robert Armstrong)

19th November, 1980



## Echoes of the General Strike in hardliners' plan

# Cabinet split on use of civilian volunteers during stoppages

By Peter Hennessy

A fierce dispute among ministers about whether it is desirable or practical for the Government to muster civilian volunteers to replace striking workers in essential industries and services in a winter of discontent is still unresolved after eight months of discussion.

Should the hardliners in the Cabinet triumph and a rash of industrial disputes materialize, the country could witness the introduction of non-service personnel on a substantial scale for the first time since the General Strike of 1926.

The argument has taken place inside a secret Cabinet committee, the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU), chaired by Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, who has grave reservations about the plan and given leadership to the doves. Prominent among the hawks have been Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade.

Confidential discussions with local authority associations, carried out during the summer by Mr Frank Elders of the Department of the Environ-

ment's defence planning and emergencies division, met with a cool and sceptical response.

The softliners have so far achieved one notable victory in killing the idea that the 70,000-strong Territorial Army should be used alongside Regulars in substituting for striking workers under the procedure known as military aid to the civil ministries.

With considerable difficulty Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Defence, persuaded the Prime Minister that the basic military purpose of the country's reserve forces could be jeopardized, especially as many reservists are trade unionists should they be used in strikebreaking activities.

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The meeting proved inconclusive and the expectation in Whitehall is that the Prime Minister will have to intervene to resolve the impasse fairly swiftly before the preliminary skirmishes of the 1980-81 strike season develop into a full-blooded winter of discontent. There is some nervousness inside the contingency planning community which, with a few exceptions is against the idea of civilian volunteers, that Mrs Thatcher will side with the hawks.



## HOME NEWS

# Protests over jailing of two sisters who killed sadistic father

By Robin Young

A campaign to overturn the three-year prison sentences imposed at Leeds Crown Court on Monday on two sisters who killed their sadistic father was rapidly gathering support yesterday.

Annette and Charlene Maw, aged 21 and 18 respectively, were sentenced by Mr Justice Smith after admitting manslaughter.

Two Labour MPs from their home town, Bradford, said yesterday that they would campaign for their release.

Mr Thomas Torney, MP for Bradford, South, said that he was writing to ask the Lord Chancellor to "quickly alter the extremely harsh and vindictive sentences". Mr Benjamin Ford, Bradford, North, said the sentences were "excessively severe".

Mr Kenneth Norman, of the Cumbria-based Portia Trust, said that the sentences were "absolutely ridiculous".

Mr Martin Wright, of the Howard League for Penal Reform, said: "We do not usually comment on individual cases, but we regret that anyone should be sent to prison when they are not any danger to the public." There was no likelihood of repitition

from their father for years; he was said to have forced them to watch as he gassed mice, bit off a live hen's head, and kicked a puppy to death.

Release, the legal advice organization, said: "In numerous manslaughter cases offenders who have suffered less provocation than the Maw sisters have been given light or non custodial sentences."

Mr Stephen Couch, the sisters' solicitor, said applications for leave to appeal and for bail would be made as quickly as possible.

**Suspended sentence:** Last night the protests gained further momentum after a jury in St Albans cleared Mrs Joyce Fuller of the murder of her husband (our Luton correspondent writes).

She was found guilty of manslaughter, and was given a two-year jail sentence suspended for two years and was placed under supervision for two years.

Mr Justice Chapman told her: "There is no necessity for me to add to the troubles you have brought upon yourself by sending you to prison".

Mr Fuller of Welwyn Garden City, died of a knife wound during a quarrel about the rent. Mrs Fuller said that her husband often beat her.

# EEC reform group launched by Tory MPs

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Reporter

Thirty-five Tory backbenchers yesterday signalled their opposition to Britain's present relationship with the European Community at the launching in the Commons of a Conservative European Reform Group.

The move comes when some ministers see Mrs Margaret Thatcher moving away from her agnostic approach to Europe to an identification with the Community.

Mr Edward Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend, East, said that the group was in no way anti-Market. "I can see no one on our list who does not regard himself as 100 per cent behind Margaret Thatcher."

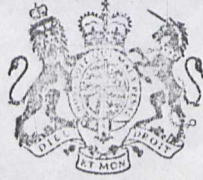
He admitted, however, that several members, including himself, had campaigned against entry into the EEC.

Three other Conservatives had joined the group but asked that their names should not be published; they were not ministers, but MPs who because of the positions they held or for other personal reasons did not want their membership made public at this stage.

The group's aims are: the ending of the common agricultural policy and the restora-



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bf 26.11.80

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A03556.

I see that, as Mr. Hennessy told Brigadier Bishop it would, today's Times carries his article about the Civil Contingencies Unit, complete with names. Since the article is mainly about Brigadier Bishop himself and not about the contingency planning which the Unit has undertaken, I rather doubt whether there is any need for a leak enquiry, but I should be glad to know what view you take.

As you say, a further argument against an investigation is that CCU papers go to a lot of people and it would be difficult to narrow the search for the culprit down in a way which would offer much hope of success. The Prime Minister accepts this, but it has led her to ask whether the circulation list for the CCU papers could be reduced. I should be grateful for your advice on this point.

I am sending a copy of this minute to Mr. Halliday (Home Office).

JW.

18 November 1980

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Prime Minister.

Mr Hennessy's article about the CCU have not only named names in the past but have come complete with photographs of one or two of the senior officials involved. *WJH 14/11*

Ref. A03556

MR. WHITMORE

Brigadier Bishop in the Cabinet Office received a telephone call this morning from Mr. Peter Hennessy, of The Times, to inform him that The Times would carry an article on Tuesday 18th November about the Civil Contingencies Unit's plans for "the coming winter of discontent". In this article Mr. Hennessy would "name names".

2. Brigadier Bishop made no comment.

3. I suppose that this means that there has been a leak to The Times of the CCU note, circulated to the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy, of the current state of planning for possible emergencies this winter.

4. We shall have to wait to see the article. But Peter Hennessy has taken an interest extending now over two years in the emergency planning organisation, and obviously had some source of information with access to CCU papers. When we see what the article actually says, we shall have to consider whether there should be some kind of leak investigation. But one can say in advance that this is unlikely to be a very profitable area for investigation: inevitably CCU papers have too wide a circulation among and within Departments to hold much hope of being able to discover whether and where we have a mole.

5. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Home Secretary's Private Secretary.

*Don* reduce papers circulation *CCU*

*RTA*

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

November  
14th December, 1980

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*Security*

CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2AZ  
Telephone 01 273 5400

*Sir Ian Bancroft G.C.B.  
Head of the Home Civil Service*

Sir John Garlick KCB  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON SW1P 3EB

30 July 1980

*My dear John,*

TIMES ARTICLE OF 17 AND 18 JULY

Thank you for your letter of 23 July. In the circumstances I agree that there would be little benefit in pursuing the matter.

I suppose the lesson in all this is that we must take the utmost care to ensure the Trade Union Side is not given confidential information about government policy on dealing with industrial action; as you imply, we can hardly expect them to respect confidences in this area, no matter how much good faith they may have shown on other matters. And by its very nature, such information is likely to lead to Ministerial embarrassment. I note that you will be discussing all this with Mrs James.

I am copying this letter to Robert Armstrong, Bill Beckett, Tony Hetherington, Howard Smith and Clive Whitmore.

*Yours ever,*

*Ian*

IAN BANCROFT

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## CABINET OFFICE

With the compliments of  
Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO  
*Secretary of the Cabinet*

To

Clive Whitmore

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS  
Telephone: 01-233 8319





CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO

MA.  
JWJ  
31 v 2

Ref. A02765

30 July 1980

TIMES ARTICLES OF 17 AND 18 JULY BY PETER HENNESSY

John Garlick sent me a copy of his letter to you of 23 July about the leak to the Times of the possible use of volunteers in the event of industrial disputes. In my letter of 21 July I had suggested that it would be right to hold a quick inquiry to try and determine the source of Peter Hennessy's information.

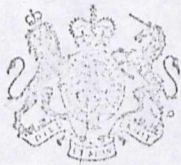
Now that it has been established that the source document is undoubtedly one of the DOE MINIS returns and it seems more than likely that the channel to Peter Hennessy was through the DOE Trade Union Side, I agree with John Garlick that there would not be any real point in carrying out a detailed investigation. The preliminary enquiries have apparently revealed what happened, and apart therefore from the steps which he himself proposes to take, I agree that there is not much more we can do.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Garlick and to the recipients of his letter of 23 July 1980.

Sir Ian Bancroft GCB



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The Permanent Secretary  
Sir John Garlick KCB

Sir Ian Bancroft GCB  
Civil Service Department  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1

*Security*  
Department of the Environment

2 Marsham Street London SW1P 3EB

01-212 8051

23 July 1980

*My dear Ian,*

TIMES ARTICLES OF 17TH AND 18TH JULY BY PETER HENNESSY

Robert Armstrong sent me a copy of his letter to you of 21 July suggesting an initial inquiry in DOE to try to discover the source of the leak to the Times about the possible use of volunteers in the event of industrial disputes.

The source document is undoubtedly one of our MINIS returns (attached) which apart from fairly limited circulation among the senior management here was also copied on a limited 'Management in Confidence' basis to our Trade Union Side who have in the past treated such information with great discretion. Our intention was in any case to delete all sensitive items from these latter copies before they were passed to the Trade Union side and this was, generally, what we did. I fear this particular reference to volunteers simply escaped our scrutiny.

Much as we regret this leak I do not think there would be any real point in carrying out a detailed investigation. We cannot be sure that the leak was from our Trade Union Side but, given the subject matter, it seems more than likely. I shall, of course, talk to Mrs James about it when she returns from leave and emphasize the



difficulty this has placed us in and the doubts this must cast on the wisdom of allowing her and her colleagues further limited access to 'Management in Confidence' documents. Beyond that I do not think there is much we can do.

Copies to Robert Armstrong and to the recipients of his letter (without enclosure).

Yours  
and

John

J Garlick





## CABINET OFFICE

With the compliments of  
Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO  
*Secretary of the Cabinet*

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70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS  
Telephone: 01-233 8319



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*Security*

*NBS PM*

*HW*

*22 vii*

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO

21st July, 1980

Ref. A02670

Times Articles of 17th and 18th July by Peter Hennessy

Peter Hennessy's two recent articles - the first in the Times on Thursday, 17th July, with a follow-up piece in Friday's edition which refers specifically to a DOE 'Management - in Confidence' document - represent a serious and embarrassing leak. I believe that it would be right to try and determine the source of his information.

Following the first article with its reference to the Cabinet Office, DOE and local authority representatives, it seemed to me that what was required was a quick inquiry, which I would launch, based on the personal questioning of individuals in these areas. I saw little point in embarking on a wide-ranging inquiry involving all the departments and all the people who were aware that Ministers had instructed civil servants to assess the feasibility of using volunteers in certain industrial situations. I remain of that view, and believe that oral interviews by a suitable investigator would be the best way to proceed. In the light of the investigator's report a decision could be made about whether there was a need for a further process of inquiry.

In view of this latest article, however, with its specific reference to a DOE document, it seems to me that the most fruitful course for any inquiry would be for it to centre on the DOE and its consultations with local authorities, and that perhaps John Garlick and his Department should be responsible for the inquiry. If we agreed to proceed in this way, the Cabinet Office would, of course, co-operate in any way the investigator saw fit.

I am copying this letter to John Garlick, Howard Smith, Bill Beckett and Tony Hetherington. I am also sending a copy to Clive Whitmore.

**ROBERT ARMSTRONG**

Sir Ian Bancroft, GCB

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Extract from The Times dated 18 July 1980.

## Civil servants ordered to study possibilities of volunteer strike-breakers

By Peter Hennessy

Ministers have instructed civil servants in the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) of the Cabinet Office to assess the feasibility of using civilian volunteers to replace striking workers in essential industries and services during a future "winter of discontent".

The Government is keen on the voluntary principle and would like it applied to the sensitive area of industrial disputes. The idea has been greeted with much scepticism in the emergency planning community in Whitehall and by the few local authority representatives who have been consulted.

The final judgment of the contingency planners has yet to be placed before ministers, who sit with officials on the CCU under the chairmanship of Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary. It will probably be incorporated in the CCU Review, a document prepared annually in August and September for the Prime Minister by Mr Robert Wade-Gery, the Cabinet Office deputy secretary who leads the CCU when it meets as a Civil Service body without ministers present.

The planners judge the use of civilian volunteers in industrial disputes to be a far greater provocation to the labour movement, and a more potent trigger of sympathetic action by workers in other areas, than the application of military labour under the Emergency Powers Acts 1920 and 1964 which has been commonplace in the recent past. Civilians have not been introduced since the general strike of 1926 though the Attlee administration of 1945-51 considered the possibility.

The CCU, one of the most sensitive and secretive of all Cabinet committees, has not met for several months. Ministers raised the possibility of using volunteer labour in its short burst of activity earlier this year when the country's first national water strike seemed possible.

Apart from the danger of civilian volunteers exacerbating disputes, the contingency

planners are well aware that the number of areas in which they can be of any real use are severely limited. Energy supply is the CCU's single most acute worry and the Armed Forces, let alone untrained civilians, are no longer capable of running power stations.

The G2 division of the Department of the Environment, under Mr Frank Elders, who represents the ministry on the CCU, has been among the more active parts of Whitehall in pursuing the possibility of volunteers. Private meetings have been held with representatives of the local authority associations, though nothing has been agreed as yet.

The idea has generally been received without enthusiasm in local authority circles. They have had recent experience of the use of troops in the firemen's strike of 1977-78; but the introduction of civilian volunteers is regarded as both qualitatively and constitutionally different.

With the exception of 1926, fear of precipitating what could amount to a civil war between the Government, its volunteers and the labour movement has always brought governments back from the brink of using civilians to break strikes. The last time it was seriously considered was by Mr Attlee's emergency organisation in 1947.

In the aftermath of an unofficial road haulage strike, the Labour Supply subcommittee of the Government's Supply and Transport Organization began to prepare, in great secrecy, a scheme for recruiting volunteer non-military labour "to meet the vital needs of one or more industries" in a future emergency.

Among the papers in the Public Record Office is a vividly worded "specimen poster or press notice" to be used in the recruiting drive. It reads:

"National emergency. Volunteers wanted for essential services only to maintain the life of the nation".

Mr Attlee never implemented the plan. But the Armed Forces were used several times between 1947 and 1951 to break strikes in the docks and the electricity supply industry.



Extract from The Times dated 17 July 1980

## HOME NEWS

# Civil Service drive to recruit accountants is falling below target

By Peter Hennessy

Whitehall's efforts to recruit more accountants to sustain the drive for greater efficiency and economy in the Civil Service is falling well below target, according to figures published today by the Civil Service Commission in its annual report for 1979.

Last month Sir Ian Bancroft, Head of the Home Civil Service, said in a speech to the annual conference of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy that "the Civil Service has too few accountants . . . we are attempting to put this right". At present there are 1,000 accountants in the Civil Service strength of 705,000.

Last year the Civil Service Commission attempted to fill 51 vacancies for accountancy posts. From 211 applicants, 24 were appointed to accountant and senior accountant positions.

Uncertainty arising from the recruitment freeze imposed by the incoming Conservative Government in 1979 added to Whitehall's customary difficulty in finding the professional, technical and specialist staff it needs. Mechanical and electrical engineers, and surveyors of all kinds, like accountants, were especially difficult to find.

Departments also found it hard to recruit men and women of sufficient calibre to staff their press offices. Of 195 vacancies in the information officer group last year, 120 were filled.

Applicants, at 3,419, were higher than in 1978, but "their

quality continued to be disappointing, with some posts, such as those for journalists, particularly difficult to fill", the Civil Service Commissioners noted.

**Oxbridge bias:** Three out of five of last year's successful external candidates for the highly regarded administration traineeships in the Civil Service had Oxbridge degrees, according to statistics given in the commission's report, (our Education Correspondent writes). Oxbridge accounts for only 5 per cent of all undergraduates in the United Kingdom.

Nearly half the successful candidates had been to maintained schools, a quarter came from direct grant schools, and a quarter from independent schools.

The highest success rate (29 per cent) was among those who had been to a direct grant school and then to Oxbridge, followed by a combination of maintained school and Oxbridge (20 per cent), and then independent school and Oxbridge (17 per cent). The overall success rate for the 2,356 candidates who entered the competition was 8 per cent.

Overall, 20 per cent of those with Oxbridge degrees were successful, compared with only 5 per cent of those with degrees from other universities and polytechnics.

Very few (7 per cent) of the successful candidates had degrees in science and technology.