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The workers Revolutionary Party: Youth Training Centres.

SECURITY.

March 1981.

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
4-3-81.							
15-2-81							
17-2-81							
19-2-82							
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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

7 March 1983

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Dear Tony,

WORKERS' REVOLUTIONARY PARTY :
FORMATION OF YOUTH TRAINING CENTRES

Thank you for your letter of 4 March.
The Prime Minister has noted its
contents. I am copying this letter to
Henry Steel and Richard Hatfield.

Your sincerely,

Robin Butler

A R Rawsthorne Esq.,
Home Office.

AA

Prime Minister
to see



CONFIDENTIAL

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

4 March 1983

Dear Robin,

WORKERS' REVOLUTIONARY PARTY: FORMATION OF
YOUTH TRAINING CENTRES

On 12 February 1982, Colin Walters wrote to Mike Pattison about the attempt by "Youth Training" to register itself as a charity. The Prime Minister had earlier commented that she assumed that they could not be so registered.

That letter recorded the decision of the Charity Commissioners not to grant charitable status on the grounds that "Youth Training" would be in the business of political propaganda. It also recorded that, under the provision of section 5(3) of the Charities Act, "Youth Training" had a right of appeal to the High Court against the Board's decision. This week we learned that an appeal had been lodged, and was likely to be heard early next week.

The Home Secretary has discussed the position with the Attorney General,

The Attorney General has arranged for the hearing of the case to be delayed so as better to enable the presentation of as good arguments as are possible in public, without jeopardising sources. He has told us that he intends, with Leading Counsel, to contest the case vigorously.

I am copying this letter to Henry Steel and to Richard Hatfield.

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

Yours sincerely,
Tony Rawsthorne

A. R. RAWSTHORNE

F. E. R. Butler, Esq.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 July 1982

THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY'S YOUTH
TRAINING CENTRE IN LIVERPOOL: ALLEGATIONS
BY MR. DAVID ALTON, M.P.

Thank you for your letter to Clive Whitmore of 24 June. We spoke about this, and I told you that the Prime Minister would like a line to take on this issue in case she is questioned in the House. She has suggested that she should take the line that the House should not expect her to comment on the matter, since it is sub judice. I should be grateful if you could confirm that you have no objection to this.

I am copying this to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M.P. & RICKETT

C.J. Walters, Esq.,
Home Office.

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Prime Minister 4

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

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HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

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Dear Dalke

THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY'S YOUTH TRAINING
CENTRE IN LIVERPOOL: ALLEGATIONS BY MR. DAVID
ALTON, M.P.

Thank you for your letter of 2 July about the line which the Prime Minister might take were she asked in the House about the allegations, and the outcome of the investigations into them, about which I wrote on 24 June.

We agree that the Prime Minister should decline to comment on this, resting on the fact that Mr. Alton is the subject of an action for defamation from Miss Redgrave because of his allegations.

You may wish to offer the Prime Minister the following form of words:

"I understand that allegations about this organisation are the subject of actions for defamation and are sub judice. It would therefore not be appropriate for me to comment on the possible accuracy or otherwise of the allegations".

C. J. WALTERS

W.F.S.Rickett, Esq.

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HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

24 June 1982

*We must work out a
 reply to a possible question
 As the matter is subject
 of legal proceedings it
 is unwise to make
 comments which
 may be
 prejudicial...
 Prime Minister.*

Dear Clive

THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY'S YOUTH
 TRAINING CENTRE IN LIVERPOOL: ALLEGATIONS
 BY MR. DAVID ALTON, M.P.

You will recall that the Prime Minister asked the Home Secretary to cause investigations into the allegations about the Workers Revolutionary Party's (WRP) Youth Training Centre in Liverpool which appeared in Mr. David Alton's Early Day Motion, No. 196, on 15 February. The Motion alleged that at the Centre the WRP trained young people in anti-police methods and indoctrinated them with extreme revolutionary views, without the knowledge of public figures on Merseyside whose names were originally used in support of the scheme, and called on the Government to take immediate action to have Youth Training Centres closed.

In the House on 16 February, in response to Mr. David Steel, the Prime Minister said that, if the allegations were true, they would have to be investigated. For convenience of reference, I attach copies of the Motion and the relevant extract from the Official Report.

**THIS IS A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL
 RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

I attach as Annex A a note giving the general background to the WRP's Youth Training Centres.

Annex B summarises the history of Mr. Alton's allegations and the exhaustive police investigations into them. The essential conclusion of the investigations, recorded in paragraph 6 of the Annex, is that there is no evidence of the commission of criminal offences. Public figures were initially duped into lending their support to the Youth Training project, and the Centre offers a means for the WRP to expose young and possibly impressionable people to its extreme and pernicious views. But there is no evidence of specific training in anti-police methods or of direct incitement to lawlessness, and evidence of criminal activity would be the only ground on which to seek to take action against the Centre.

The Prime Minister's request to the Home Secretary to have the allegations investigated by the police is public knowledge, but as far as we are aware, there is no commitment publicly to report the outcome. If the Prime Minister were to be asked about that, careful consideration would have to be given to the answer.

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As paragraph 7 of Annex B notes, Mr. Alton is the subject of libel actions instituted by the WRP because of his allegations, and the publishers of three newspapers which carried similar allegations have already conceded the WRP's case. Knowledge of the police view, that some of what Mr. Alton had alleged cannot be substantiated and none of it can credibly be presented as criminal, might well affect the outcome of the libel actions which are outstanding.

I am copying this letter and its enclosures to the Private Secretary to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours sincerely
C. J. Walters*

C. J. WALTERS

Clive Whitmore, Esq.

196 WORKERS' REVOLUTIONARY PARTY : YOUTH TRAINING CENTRES

Mr David Alton
Mr Cyril Smith
Mr Barry Porter
Mr Malcolm Thornton
Mr Richard Crawshaw
Mr Geraint Howells

★ 16

Mr John Cartwright

That this House congratulates Liverpool's Radio City, and in particular the journalist Kieran Devaney, on their programme '100 Gloucester Place', broadcast on Friday 29th January, which highlighted the activities of the Workers' Revolutionary Party at a youth training centre, where young people have been trained in anti-police methods and indoctrinated with extreme revolutionary views, without the knowledge of public figures on Merseyside whose names were originally used in support of the scheme; and therefore calls on Her Majesty's Government to take immediate action to have these centres closed.

198 RECEPTION AT LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR POLISH AMBASSADOR

Mr Harry Cowans
Mr Hugh McCartney
Mr Bernard Conlan
Mr Bill Homewood
Dr John Cunningham
Mr Derek Foster

★ 47

Mr J. W Focker

That this House expresses its disquiet and disgust at the intention of the London Chamber of Commerce to hold an informal reception for the new Polish Ambassador and Commercial Counsellor; notes that tickets for this reception are to cost £11.50 for members of the East European Section of the London Chamber and £17.25 to all others; draws this revolting display of commercial courtesy extended to representatives of the present oppressive military régime to the attention of the British people; and believes that whilst it is necessary to maintain contact with this régime to arrange food and medical supplies to the Polish people, it is surely not necessary to wine and dine them at a time when thousands of Poles are held in inhuman prison camps and the entire population is terrorised under martial law.

★ The figure following this symbol gives the total number of names of Members appended, including those names added in this edition of the Notices of Questions and Motions.

she believe that they make the provision of jobs more difficult at a time when we should be doing everything possible to make more jobs available?

The Prime Minister: I have seen the leaflet to which my hon. Friend refers. As it received a good deal of publicity a week or so ago I looked at the definition of what is a suitable job, which seems to have remained unchanged since 1946. It seems to me that the definition would preclude people from taking jobs with reasonable pay and I have asked my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Social Services to look into the matter.

Mr. Steel: Has the Prime Minister had time to consider early-day motion No. 196 about the so-called youth training centres set up by the Workers' Revolutionary Party?

Mr. Skinner: How many women are there?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Skinner: I was only asking about the percentage of women.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I know that, but the hon. Member for Bolsover (Mr. Skinner) must try to control himself. It seems that whenever the Leader of the Liberal Party speaks the hon. Member for Bolsover feels that he must contribute as well. That is not so.

Mr. Steel: Given that the Department of Employment is concerned about this matter, what steps will the Government take to draw the attention of the public to the abuses taking place at the centres?

The Prime Minister: If there are abuses, we shall of course look into the matter. I do not know the truth or otherwise of what is contained in the early-day motion, but I assume that it is true because it has been put down [HON.

MEMBERS: "Oh."] Perhaps I should say that I assume it to be true for the purposes of the question. That might be a safer way to put it. If it is true that

"young people have been trained in anti-police methods and indoctrinated with extreme revolutionary views, without the knowledge of public figures on Merseyside whose names were originally used in support of the scheme",

that is a very serious matter. I should take any such action extremely seriously and it would of course have to be investigated.

Q4. Mr. Newens asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 16 February.

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply that I gave some moments ago.

Mr. Newens: Will the right hon. Lady find time today to consider the financial crisis now facing the Essex county council as a result of the rate support grant settlement, which has dismayed even its Conservative leaders who are worried by the response that they have received from her right hon. Friends? Is she aware that this threatens educational services, old people's homes, fire cover and many other local government services in Essex? It is extremely important that she should intervene to see that something is done about it.

The Prime Minister: As the hon. Gentleman knows, all rate support grant figures have been published and the local authorities know them. We are debating the whole matter today, as it affects England and Wales. I am sure that he will put those views strenuously to my right hon. Friend.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of three applications for emergency debates under Standing Order No. 9. I shall take them in the order in which they were received.

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THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
ANNEX A
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

GENERAL BACKGROUND

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY: YOUTH TRAINING CENTRES

In January 1981, the (Trotskyist) Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP) opened two Youth Training Centres, in Brixton and Liverpool. Two more Centres, have since been opened, in Glasgow and Nottingham, and others, in Manchester, Newcastle and Merthyr Tydfil, are in varying stages of preparation. Youth Training classes have also been inaugurated at the premises of the WRP Bookshop (Paperbacks Centre) in Norwich.

2. The Youth Training project is chaired by Miss Vanessa Redgrave, who is also a member of the WRP Central Committee. Youth Training is largely administered by the Young Socialists, the youth limb of the WRP, and there is no doubt that the WRP regard the project as an important cog in the wheel of their revolutionary aims, not least because of the links which it is hoped to establish between it and the Trade Unions.

the Centres are intended to provide training not only in industrial skills but also in technology which the WRP might use in a revolutionary situation. But there is no information to support the allegation that the Youth Training Centres have been used for anti-police training. The WRP consistently wages a virulent propaganda campaign against the police, but their propaganda rejects acts of individual violence and terrorism as inimical to the long-term revolutionary aims of the Party.

3. The publicised purposes of Youth Training have been moderated to some extent from, for example:

"here youth can train and equip themselves with the knowledge and skills necessary to take part in the establishment of Community Councils, Workers Defence Guards and the struggle for a Workers Revolutionary Government"

to

"here youth can train and equip themselves with

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the knowledge and skills necessary to build a decent future".

4. Neither the Youth Training Centres nor the WRP as an organisation were involved in initiating or participating in the civil disturbances in 1981. WRP reaction was mainly expressed in propaganda blaming the Army and the police for provoking the disturbances.

5. In general, the WRP rejects any form of alliance with other subversive groups and although a contingent of Young Socialists took part in an anti-police demonstration in Toxteth after the July disturbances, their participation was on a small scale.

6. There has yet to be any substantive action by the WRP in response to the rejection by the Charity Commissioners of an application to have Youth Training registered as a charity.

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ANNEX B

THE LIVERPOOL YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE: ALLEGATIONS BY MR DAVID ALTON MP

The (Trotskyist) Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP) opened its Youth Training Centre at 100, Gloucester Place, Liverpool in January 1981. It is understood that the intention was not to use this centre for the activities of the Young Socialists, the youth limb of the WRP, as that would be outside the designated purposes for which planning permission was granted. It is not known to what extent, for fear of revocation of that permission, those purposes have been adhered to in every respect.

2. On 29 January 1982, the local radio station, "Radio City" broadcast a programme entitled "100 Gloucester Place". Miss Vanessa Redgrave, the Chairman of Youth Training, appeared and was evasive in her answers. Mr John Conteh, the boxer, appeared as a celebrity who had initially supported Youth Training but had become disenchanted with it and believed he had been misled. Others who contributed to the programme were Mr John Rennard, Deputy Chairman of the Liverpool Liberal Party, who had visited the Centre, Miss Margaret Shaw (under the alias Anne Johnson), a local resident and Liberal sympathiser and, most notably, 17 year old Tracey Anne Thomas (under the alias Cathy Moran) who had previously met Mr David Alton MP, had unwittingly been associated with the Young Socialists, and who had taken part in activities at the Centre. The essence of the allegations made in the programme was that:

(a) public figures were duped into supporting the Youth Training Centres;

(b) at the Liverpool Centre young people had been trained in anti-police methods and indoctrinated with extreme revolutionary views.

3. Mr David Alton MP incorporated these allegations in Early Day Motion 196 on 15 February 1982, which called upon the Government to take action to have Youth Training Centres closed. Mr David Steel MP referred to the Motion during Questions the next day, when the Prime Minister said that, if the allegations were true, they would have to be investigated.

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4. The Home Secretary asked the Chief Constable of Merseyside to investigate the allegations. Together with the Metropolitan Police, who interviewed a number of people, the Merseyside Police have conducted an exhaustive investigation. In connection with the allegation that celebrities had been duped, the police have interviewed Mr John Boulting, the film producer, Mr John Conteh, Mr Philip Thompson, the professional footballer and sometime captain of both the Liverpool and England teams, and Mr Michael Lyons, the professional footballer and captain of Everton.

5. In connection with the allegation of anti-police training and revolutionary indoctrination at the Liverpool Centre, the police have interviewed the other people who appeared on the "Radio City" programme (Mr Remard, Miss Shaw and Miss Thomas) and, at the invitation of the Centre's staff, have visited the premises. Most notably, the statement which Miss Thomas has made to the police does not support the gravity of the allegations which Mr Alton made in relying, apparently, upon her experience at the Centre.

6. The conclusions of the police investigation are recorded in the report of the officer in charge as follows:

"(a) I have concluded that a number of public figures did endorse the Youth Training Scheme, and even donate funds to it, believing that they were supporting a genuine effort to ease the lot of unemployed youth in the areas concerned. Those members of the Workers Revolutionary Party and the Young Socialists who solicited these endorsements did delude those concerned and one would appear to have told lies to achieve his ends. I have found no evidence of criminal offences, nor have I received any complaint of criminal activity, during my investigations with this aspect of the enquiry;

(b) I did not find any evidence that young people had been trained in anti-police methods, or for that matter asked to participate in rioting. I am satisfied that young people who attended a Youth Training Centre are

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likely to come into contact with members of the Workers Revolutionary Party and the Young Socialists who would seek to indoctrinate them with extreme revolutionary views. There was no evidence to suggest any criminal offences, nor have I received any complaint of criminal activity during my investigations into this second aspect of the enquiry.

The revolutionary policies of the Workers Revolutionary Party are well publicised and available to anyone who seeks them out. Mr Alton has taken strong steps to try and eliminate the activities of the Workers Revolutionary Party in his constituency as both he and the vast majority of the electorate would abhor the activities of the Workers Revolutionary Party amongst the impressionable youth of the area. The activity disclosed during the enquiry appears to fall within the bounds of acceptability within our democracy".

7. Allegations such as those in the local radio programme have also been reported in the national press. Miss Redgrave has brought libel actions against Mr Alton, "Radio City" and the newspaper publishers. Her solicitor drew the actions to the notice of the Secretary to the Cabinet following the Prime Minister's comments in the House on 16 February. Sir Robert Armstrong replied that he did not believe that what the Prime Minister had said could be regarded as prejudicial to the actions but that he was taking steps to make sure that she was aware that the actions were outstanding and sub-judice, in case the matter should arise again in the House. The libel actions against Times Newspapers Limited, Express Newspapers Limited and News Group Newspapers have been settled. In each instance, the publishers apologised for their reports, published letters from Miss Redgrave and paid the costs of the action. This would not seem to augur well for Mr Alton in the actions which are outstanding against him.

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Mr. Ruskett

Can you be present

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~~James~~



With the Compliments of

The Treasury Solicitor

M. J. KERRY CB

Matthew Parker Street,
London, SW1H 9NN



M. J. KERRY CB

Our reference

Your reference

D Wright Esq
Private Secretary to
Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO

c.c. C Whitmore Esq
J Nursaw Esq

Matthew Parker Street
London SW1H 9NN

Telephone 01-233 7391

22 February 1982

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DRAFT LETTER TO MICHAEL RUBINSTEIN

I have agreed with Mr Nursaw who has shown the papers to the Attorney General that I should deal with this matter. We spoke on the telephone, and I suggested two small amendments to the draft letter from Sir Robert Armstrong to Mr Whitmore.

- 1) In paragraph 2, line 8, the words "sub-judice" should be deleted, and
- 2) At the end of the paragraph, the words "or elsewhere" should be added.

Both in Mr Rubinstein's letter and Sir Robert Armstrong's minute the sub-judice seems to be referred to in excessively wide terms. In the House of Commons, it bars reference to a matter awaiting or under ^{the}judication in a civil court from the time that the case has been set down for trial or otherwise brought before the court, as for example, for notice of motion of an injunction. Such matters may be referred to before such date unless it appears to the Chair that there is a real and substantial danger of prejudice to trial of the case. (See Erskine May 19th Edition, page 427, and resolution of the House of 23rd July 1963.)

There is no indication that the present cases have been set down for trial.

Nevertheless, apart from the sub-judice rule in Parliament and any question of contempt of court outside, where a matter is known to be the subject of legal proceedings, it is obviously advisable for caution to be exercised in any public

statements in relation to it.

M J Kerry

M J Kerry

22 FEB 1982





10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

YOUTH TRAINING CENTRES

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A07546 of 17 February, and she is content, subject to the views of the other recipients of your minute, for you to write to Mr. Michael Rubinstein in the terms of the draft attached to your minute.

I am sending copies of this minute to the recipients of yours.

— I. C. A. WHITMORE

19 February 1982

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I have taken
the copy for
Questions today.
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1
Prime Minister
Consider that Sir Robert Armstrong
should write in the terms of the
draft or page 'A' ?
18.2.82

Ref. A07546

MR. WHITMORE

Mr. Michael Rubinstein rang me up at 12.30 pm today, speaking on behalf of his client, Miss Vanessa Redgrave.

2. His attention had been drawn to an Answer given by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on 16th February (O.R. 16th February, cols. 143 and 144) about allegations of abuses taking place at so-called Youth Training Centres set up by the Workers Revolutionary Party. He wished to draw attention to the fact that the allegations to which Mr. Steel referred were the subject of actions for defamation against Mr. David Alton MP. There are three such actions outstanding. Similar writs had been issued last August against The Times and the Daily Express; in those cases the actions had been settled and the newspapers concerned had paid Miss Redgrave's costs. Mr. Rubinstein thought that the Prime Minister might not have been aware that libel actions against Mr. Alton were sub judice at the present time, when she gave her Supplementary Answer.

3. I said to Mr. Rubinstein that it did not seem to me that the Prime Minister had said anything in Parliament which could be regarded as prejudicial to the actions in question. It was clearly right, however, that she should be aware that actions of this kind were sub judice, in case questions of the kind arose later. I therefore undertook to ensure that she was aware of what Mr. Rubinstein had told me.

4. I now attach a copy of a confirmatory letter which Mr. Rubinstein has sent to me. You will see that Mr. Rubinstein suggests that, in the light of what he says, I may wish him to call upon me to discuss the implications of the Prime Minister's involvement in matters which are sub judice. I do not believe that any useful purpose would be served by my inviting Mr. Rubinstein to call upon me: if there were to be any contact of that kind, it should be via the Treasury Solicitor (or the Attorney General, if it came to that). I therefore propose, subject to your comments and the comments of those to whom I am copying this minute, to reply on the lines of the draft attached.



5. I am sending copies of this minute and of Mr. Rubinstein's letter and the relevant page of the Official Report to the Legal Secretary to the Law Officers and to the Treasury Solicitor. I should be grateful for their advice and comments on my draft reply to Mr. Rubinstein. I am also sending a copy of these papers to the Private Secretary to the Lord President, in case the Lord President is asked about Early Day Motion No. 196 in the course of Questions on his business statement; and to the Private Secretary to the Home Secretary, in view of the subject matter.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

CONQUEROR

17th February, 1982

RUBINSTEIN CALLINGHAM

(RUBINSTEIN NASH & CO. CALLINGHAM TUCKER & CO.)

SOLICITORS

MICHAEL RUBINSTEIN A. J. HUCKER JOAN RUBINSTEIN ANTHONY RUBINSTEIN
M. C. FOWLER RICHARD N. SAX T. K. H. ROBERTSON M. ALEXANDER
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TELEX NO. 894100 RUBCAL G
TELEPHONE: 01-242 8404
L. D. E. No. 125

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17th February, 1982

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YOUR REF

OUR REF

MR/AS

Sir Robert Armstrong,
Cabinet Office,
70 Whitehall,
London, SW1A 2AS.

Dear Robert

As I told you on the telephone at about 12-30 p.m. today, Miss Vanessa Redgrave is a Client of my firm. On her behalf we have commenced three actions for defamation against Mr. David Alton, M.P., concerning Youth Training, an organisation of which she is, as is well-known, the Chairman. Two of the writs were issued on the 5th August, 1981, co-Defendants in those actions being respectively Times Newspapers Limited and Express Newspapers Limited. The Times and the Daily Express each published a letter from Miss Redgrave and paid her costs for proceeding against them and those actions are therefore pending now only against Mr. Alton.

Two of the libel actions were commenced on the 5th August, 1981, and related to allegations by Mr. Alton that the Workers' Revolutionary Party of whose Central Committee Miss Vanessa Redgrave is a member, and Youth Training which was originally sponsored by the WRP were responsible for inciting youth to riot last summer in those areas where Youth Training centres had already been opened, notably in Toxteth and Brixton.

A third action was commenced on the 5th February, 1982, against Radio City (Sounds of Merseyside) Limited and Mr. Alton, in respect of defamatory allegations broadcast on the 29th January and on the 2nd February, 1982. Although the writ has been served on Solicitors acting respectively for the Radio City company, the First Defendants, and Mr. David Alton, M.P., the Second Defendant, a Statement of Claim has not yet been served in this action. From the report of proceedings in Parliament yesterday on page 4 of today's Times it appears that Mr. David Steel, M.P., the Leader of the Liberal Party, in a supplementary question to the Prime Minister drew her attention to an early day motion tabled in the Commons referring specifically to the aforementioned broadcast on the 29th January, 1982. The fact that that is, as I have explained, the subject of pending proceedings certainly Mr. Alton must and presumably Mr. Steel would have known at the time. I appreciate that the Prime Minister may very well have been unaware of the pending proceedings by the three actions brought against Mr. Alton when she said in reply to Mr. Steel, as reported in The Times, "... I do not know the truth or otherwise of what is contained in the motion, but I assume it is true because it was put down - (Protests) - I assume it is true for the purpose of this question. /If what it says is correct, and I assume it is, it is serious that young people have been trained in anti-police methods and indoctrinated with extreme revolutionary groups without the knowledge of public figures on Merseyside whose names were originally used in support of this scheme. /I take any such allegation extremely seriously and will investigate it.". The allegation of training in anti-police methods and any such indoctrination given to those who attend the Youth Training centres for training in trades and skills is the specific allegation which is the subject of the third action involving Mr. Alton. The suggestion that the criminal activities were undertaken without certain parties being informed is insignificant beside the allegation that they have been undertaken at all.

You will understand that I have not personally any knowledge of what teaching or training has or has not been given to youth attending for training in trades and skills at any of the Youth Training Centres set up in areas of high unemployment and deprivation under Vanessa Redgrave's Chairmanship. She has assured me, however, and this is of course the basis upon which the third action has been commenced, that there is absolutely no truth in the allegations of training in methods of attacking the police, broadcast by Mr. Alton. These allegations were claimed by Radio City to have been confirmed by their own investigation - as to which no evidence whatsoever has, so far as we are aware, been made public. It is possible, of course, that someone has told Mr. Alton a story which he believes but which is in fact a total fabrication. We have no means of knowing and in the absence of specific evidence to the contrary I am bound, on my present information and instructions, to accept Miss Redgrave's categorical assurances that there is absolutely no truth in the highly defamatory remarks broadcast by Mr. Alton. I understand that in the relevant localities Community Police Officers have on occasions dropped in to the Youth Training Centres and that, so far as Youth Training Supervisors are aware, good relations exist between them. I am instructed that Youth Training has always sought good relations and believes it has established them with local authorities in each of the areas where Youth Training operates.

In the circumstances disclosed to you and through you to the Prime Minister, it may be for the first time, by my earlier conversation and by this letter, you may wish me to call upon you to discuss the implications of the Prime Minister's involvement in matters which are and have for some months been the subject of legal proceedings and are therefore strictly sub judice.

Miss Vanessa Redgrave is at present in Australia and is not expected back before the 16th March, 1982. I have spoken to her on the telephone today and she has endorsed the terms of this letter. Anything which the Prime Minister can properly do to rectify any possibly wrong impression inadvertently given in Parliament yesterday Miss Redgrave would, I need hardly add, very much appreciate.

Yours sincerely
Michael

she believe that they make the provision of jobs more difficult at a time when we should be doing everything possible to make more jobs available?

The Prime Minister: I have seen the leaflet to which my hon. Friend refers. As it received a good deal of publicity a week or so ago I looked at the definition of what is a suitable job, which seems to have remained unchanged since 1946. It seems to me that the definition would preclude people from taking jobs with reasonable pay and I have asked my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Social Services to look into the matter.

Mr. Steel: Has the Prime Minister had time to consider early-day motion No. 196 about the so-called youth training centres set up by the Workers' Revolutionary Party?

Mr. Skinner: How many women are there?

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Mr. Steel: Given that the Department of Employment is concerned about this matter, what steps will the Government take to draw the attention of the public to the abuses taking place at the centres?

The Prime Minister: If there are abuses, we shall of course look into the matter. I do not know the truth or otherwise of what is contained in the early-day motion, but I assume that it is true because it has been put down [HON.

MEMBERS: "Oh."] Perhaps I should say that I assume it to be true for the purposes of the question. That might be a safer way to put it. If it is true that "young people have been trained in anti-police methods and indoctrinated with extreme revolutionary views, without the knowledge of public figures on Merseyside whose names were originally used in support of the scheme", that is a very serious matter. I should take any such action extremely seriously and it would of course have to be investigated.


Q4. Mr. Newens asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 16 February.

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply that I gave some moments ago.

Mr. Newens: Will the right hon. Lady find time today to consider the financial crisis now facing the Essex county council as a result of the rate support grant settlement, which has dismayed even its Conservative leaders who are worried by the response that they have received from her right hon. Friends? Is she aware that this threatens educational services, old people's homes, fire cover and many other local government services in Essex? It is extremely important that she should intervene to see that something is done about it.

The Prime Minister: As the hon. Gentleman knows, all rate support grant figures have been published and the local authorities know them. We are debating the whole matter today, as it affects England and Wales. I am sure that he will put those views strenuously to my right hon. Friend.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of three applications for emergency debates under Standing Order No. 9. I shall take them in the order in which they were received.

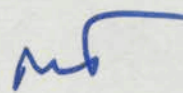


DRAFT LETTER FROM SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG
TO MICHAEL RUBINSTEIN, ESQ., MESSRS.
RUBINSTEIN CALLINGHAM, 6, RAYMOND
BUILDINGS, GRAYS INN, WC1R 5BZ

Thank you for your letter of 17th February, confirming what you said to me in our telephone conversation earlier that day.

I do not believe that what the Prime Minister said in the House of Commons on 16th February, as recorded in the Official Report (a copy of the relevant page of which I enclose herewith), could be regarded as prejudicial to the actions of which you have informed me. But I am, as I told you, taking steps to make sure that the Prime Minister is aware that these actions are outstanding and sub judice, in case the matter should arise again in the House of Commons.

I am grateful to you for your offer to call upon me; but I do not believe that there is any need for me to ask you to do so. Your letter is a clear statement of the position relating to the actions in question.



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

15 February 1982

Dear Colin,

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY ;
FORMATION OF YOUTH TRAINING CENTRES

Thank you for your letter of 12 February 1982 about the attempts of the Workers' Revolutionary Party to have their Youth Training Centres registered as a charity.

I have shown this to the Prime Minister, and she has taken note of the present position.

Yours ever,

Anne Whitman.

Colin Walters Esq.,
Home Office.

AH

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister
HL
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HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

MS

12 February 1982

Dear Mike

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY - FORMATION OF YOUTH TRAINING CENTRES

You will recall that early last year the Prime Minister commented on the formation of Youth Training Centres sponsored by the Workers' Revolutionary Party that she assumed that they could not be registered as a charity. The Prime Minister may wish to know the present position.

Application was made to the Charity Commission on 1 March 1981 for the registration of Youth Training as a charity. On 7 October, the Northern Office of the Charity Commission informed the solicitors acting on behalf of Youth Training, that they did not feel able to recommend that the Commissioners consent to such registration, on the grounds that the true intent of the sponsors was political and outside the field of charitable endeavour.

Youth Training then took up their first line of appeal and asked that the Charity Commissioners, sitting as a Board, should consider the application. The Board duly did so and on 3 February the solicitors were informed that the Board had concluded that Youth Training should not be entered in the Register of Charities under section 4 of the Charities Act 1960. The Board felt that Youth Training would be in the business of political propaganda.

Under the provisions of section 5(3) of the Charities Act, Youth Training have the right of appeal to the High Court against the Board's decision. I shall, of course, let you know if and when they avail themselves of that right.

**THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

Yours ever -
CJW

C J WALTERS

M A Pattison, Esq.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY:
YOUTH TRAINING CENTRES

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A04366 of 3 March 1981 about the Workers Revolutionary Party's plans to open youth training centres, and she has noted what is being done to prompt the Chief Charity Commissioner to ask for detailed information about the activities of these centres, should the WRP apply for the registration of the centres as a charity.

C. A. WHITMORE

4 March 1981

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