

Confidential Filing

The retention of Lord Mountbatten of Burma's papers by the Broadlands Archives Settlement.

ROYAL

FAMILY

July 1985

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
9.7.85 25.7.85 24.9.85							
PREM 19/1618							





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

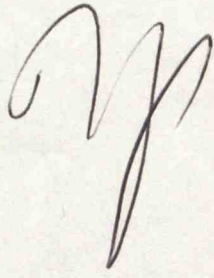
SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

**Broadlands Archives**

I am sorry that we have not replied before now to your minute of 26 July to Robin Butler in which you asked whether the arrangements described in that minute for the release of the Mountbatten papers in the Broadlands Archives were acceptable.

We are content with the arrangements you propose.

24 September 1985





10 DOWNING STREET

NLW

Carol in RTA's office  
'phoned re. minute at  
Pop.

The archive section  
are awaiting a  
reply - we assume  
it's due to the  
sentence - we hope  
this is acceptable.

JB

24/9





NBPM

Ref. A085/2006

MR BUTLER

Broadlands Archives

The Prime Minister's approval to the Mountbatten papers in the Broadlands Archives being included in the loan to Southampton University (your minute of 9 July 1985) was warmly welcomed by Lord Brabourne on behalf of the Broadlands Trustees, and by Lord Jellicoe, the Chancellor, and Professor Roberts, the Vice Chancellor, on behalf of the University. They have all asked me to convey their gratitude to the Prime Minister.

As regards the Prime Minister's comment that only papers which can properly be opened to the general public should be moved to Southampton, the Ministry of Defence reviewers who are now reviewing the official records in the Archive will have this point very much in mind in making their selection. There will be some papers which are not quite 30 years old - the normal stage for release - but which could be made generally available when they reach this point. It would be convenient, and help to retain the homogeneity and integrity of the Archive to move such papers to Southampton and to authorise their progressive release to the general public as they reach the 30 year point. I hope this will be acceptable. But I agree that papers which must remain closed for an extended period beyond 30 years had better not be moved to Southampton. I am confident that the Trustees will agree to this.

*R*  
Approved by  
ROBERT ARMSTRONG  
*and signed Sir Nicholas...*

26 July 1985



Royal Family: Mountbatten Papers

7/85



CONFIDENTIAL



SPWAFA



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

BROADLANDS ARCHIVES

The Prime Minister was grateful for your submission of 8 July (A085/1859).

The Prime Minister commented on paragraph 5 of your minute that it would be unwise to discriminate between papers to which scholars could have access and papers which could be open to the general public. She saw no point in moving papers to Southampton which would be subject to the same restriction as at Broadlands and thought that papers should only be moved to Southampton if they could properly be opened generally. Subject to this point, however, the Prime Minister was agreeable to the proposal.

In view of the interest of the Royal Family in the Mountbatten papers I suggested that it would be wise to inform the Palace of this proposal. In fact, I understand from Mr. Hatfield that none of the papers or correspondence about Lord Mountbatten's relationship with the Royal Family is being transferred to Southampton.

9 July 1985

*h*





cc- Mr. Butler (No. 10)  
Mr. Hosker (Tsy Sol)  
Mr. Stevens  
Mrs Forbes

70 WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AS

01-233 8319

*From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service*

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. A085/1870

9 July 1985

*Dear Lord Brabourne,*

On 30 March 1969 you and your fellow Trustees of the Broadlands Archives Settlement entered into certain undertakings with my predecessor, Sir Burke Trend, under which, in consideration of your being permitted to retain in the Broadlands Archives those papers formerly held by Earl Mountbatten of Burma which relate to his official activities as a naval officer, as Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, as Viceroy of India, as Fourth and subsequently First Sea Lord, and as Chief of Defence Staff, you agreed inter alia to make proper arrangements for the safe custody of the papers and not to part with the papers or to give general or particular access to them without the express permission of the Prime Minister for the time being sought through the Secretary of the Cabinet.

The Prime Minister has been informed that the Trustees of the Broadlands Archives Settlement (hereinafter called "the Trustees") are proposing to enter into an agreement with the University of Southampton (hereinafter called "the University") under which the Broadlands Archives, including the Mountbatten papers and thus including the papers to which the undertakings of 30 March 1969 relate, will be lent to the University so as to enable them to be used for the purpose of furthering research and scholarly work. Both the Trustees and the University recognise that, in so far as papers to which the undertakings of 30 March 1969 relate are to be included in the loan, the loan requires the Prime Minister's express permission, which you have asked me to seek.

The Prime Minister has authorised me to tell you that she is prepared in principle to give her permission for the loan to be made, subject to the following conditions:

/1. The agreement

The Lord Brabourne



1. The agreement between the Trustees and the University will provide that that agreement in no way derogates from the undertakings given in or from the responsibilities accepted by the Trustees under the agreement of 30 March 1969, nor in any way diminishes or alters the requirements upon the trustees to seek the Prime Minister's approval on matters where such approval is required under that agreement.

2. The agreement between the Trustees and the University will bind the University to observe and abide by, and to give all necessary support and assistance to the Trustees to enable them to observe and abide by, the undertakings given in the agreement of 30 March 1969.

3. The Trustees and the University agree to incorporate in their agreement such other provisions as the Secretary of the Cabinet on behalf of the Prime Minister may require so as to secure that the purposes of the undertakings given on 30 March 1969 are and continue to be achieved when the Broadlands Archives are lent to the University.

4. The Trustees and the University agree to accept any conditions stipulated by the Secretary of the Cabinet on behalf of the Prime Minister in respect of the papers to which the Undertakings of 30 March 1969 relate, including any conditions which may require the trustees to withhold and not to lend to the University and to keep secure and free from general or particular access certain of those papers, or which may require the University to hold certain papers lent by the Trustees to the University subject to there being no right of general or particular access to them without the prior agreement of the Secretary of the Cabinet given expressly in each case.

If these conditions are accepted by the Trustees and by the University, the Prime Minister will have no objection to an announcement being made by the Chancellor of the University on 11 July to the effect that the Trustees have agreed to lend to the University the Broadlands Archives, including the Palmerston paper, the Broadlands Estate papers, the Mount Temple papers, the Shaftesbury papers, the Ashley papers and in principle the greater part of the Mountbatten papers, so as to enable them to be used for the purpose of furthering research and scholarly work.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Southampton.

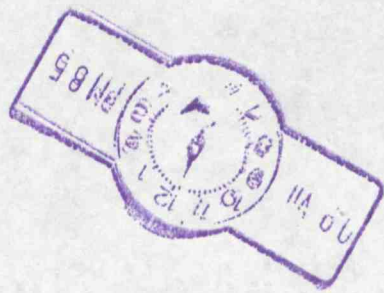
/The Prime Minister



The Prime Minister has also asked about safeguarding letters from the Royal Family. On the basis of your letter of 8 August last, I have told her that the Trustees regard all these as a private part of the Archive and not to be sent to the University.

Yours sincerely

Robert Armstrong





Ref. A085/1859

PRIME MINISTER



Prime Minister

I wonder if Sir Robert  
Armstrong should ensure that  
the Royal Family have no objection.  
Subject to that, agree this bar?

PERB

8.7.

Broadlands Archives Settlement

Earl Mountbatten of Burma characteristically kept a very full documentary record of his life; and the files which he retained in his personal possession contained a considerable number of papers relating to his official activities as Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, as Viceroy of India, as Fourth and then First Sea Lord and as Chief of the Defence Staff. These were papers which a lesser mortal would not be supposed to take out or retain, and many of them come within the definition of public records.

2. After his retirement Lord Mountbatten assigned all his papers to the Trustees of the Broadlands Archives Settlement. The Broadlands Archives include not only the papers of Lord and Lady Mountbatten but papers relating to both their parents, and papers from earlier centuries of the Palmerston, Mount Temple and Shaftesbury families. At that time Lord Mountbatten and the Trustees raised with my predecessor the question of retention of the papers relating to Lord Mountbatten's official activities in the Broadlands Archives, and the Trustees reached a formal agreement with my predecessor on 30 March 1969 under which, in consideration of being allowed to retain the papers under their control, the Trustees entered into a number of undertakings, in particular to make proper arrangements for the safe custody of the papers and not to part with them or give general or individual access to them without the permission of the Prime Minister, sought through the Secretary of the Cabinet.

3. The Trustees have scrupulously adhered to this agreement. For instance, when Philip Ziegler was appointed to write Lord Mountbatten's (recently published) biography, they sought permission to give him access to the papers, and accepted our requirement that as a condition of doing so they would ensure that Mr Ziegler's manuscript was submitted to us and any deletions or changes we might require would be made.





4. The Trustees now wish to enter into an agreement with the University of Southampton under which the Broadlands Archives, including the Mountbatten papers, will be lent to the University so as to enable their use for the purpose of furthering research and scholarly work. Under the agreement of 30 March 1969 such a loan requires your permission in respect of papers in the archives relating to Lord Mountbatten's official activities.

5. The Trustees accept that there will be some of these papers to which public access cannot yet be given, and they and the University assure me that they will accept whatever conditions we think it right to impose so as to secure the continued custody of these papers in secret and secure conditions. There may be some papers which we can allow to be moved to Southampton provided that they are not open to public general or particular access without our agreement; there will be others which we must insist are held back and either retained in secure conditions at Broadlands or deposited with the Cabinet Office or the Ministry of Defence.

*If they are available to 'students' that is open to the public*

6. We are presently engaged in going through the Mountbatten papers - all 38 filing cabinets of them - to see what we can allow to be transferred to Southampton and opened for access and what we must continue to require to be held under restricted access or not to be transferred to Southampton. The task is well advanced, but not yet complete. The number of papers that have to be kept back is unlikely to exceed the contents of one filing cabinet.

7. The loan to Southampton University is to be made the subject of a formal agreement between the Trustees and the University. This agreement will include a provision that expressly makes it clear that the new agreement in no way derogates from the undertakings in the settlement of 30 March 1969 or alters the requirement for Prime Ministerial approval, where the 1969 settlement requires that. The new agreement will also bind the University to abide by the 1969 settlement.





8. The Trustees have assured me that they will be prepared to incorporate in their agreement with the University any provisions we need to protect the 1969 settlement and the papers covered by it.

9. The present Vice-Chancellor of the University of Southampton, Professor J M Roberts, is to leave the University at the end of the current academic year, to return to Merton College as Warden. He has been taking the lead in the negotiations for the loan of the Broadlands Archives to the University, and is understandably anxious that the loan should be announced before he leaves. The suitable time for such an announcement would be in a statement by the Chancellor of the University, Lord Jellicoe, at the ceremony of graduation on 11 July.

10. I can see no reason in principle for our objecting to the loan of the Mountbatten papers to the University, subject to the safeguards and conditions described in paragraphs 5 to 8 of this minute. I therefore seek your agreement that I should let the Trustees and the Vice-Chancellor know that you would have no objection to the Chancellor announcing on 11 July that the Trustees of the Broadlands Archives have agreed to lend the Archives, including in principle the greater part of the Mountbatten papers, to the University so as to enable them to be used for the purpose of furthering research and scholarly --- work. I attach the draft of the letter which I propose to send.

RTA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

8 July 1985

*I should not move anything to Southampton unless it can be properly available to the public. Otherwise agreed*  
 mb





DRAFT LETTER FROM SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG TO

The Lord Brabourne

cc The Rt Hon The Earl Jellicoe DSO MC  
Professor J M Roberts MA DPhil

On 30 March 1969 you and your fellow Trustees of the Broadlands Archives Settlement entered into certain undertakings with my predecessor, Sir Burke Trend, under which, in consideration of your being permitted to retain in the Broadlands Archives those papers formerly held by Earl Mountbatten of Burma which relate to his official activities as a naval officer, as Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, as Viceroy of India, as Fourth and subsequently First Sea Lord, and as Chief of Defence Staff, you agreed inter alia to make proper arrangements for the safe custody of the papers and not to part with the papers or to give general or particular access to them without the express permission of the Prime Minister for the time being sought through the Secretary of the Cabinet.

The Prime Minister has been informed that the Trustees of the Broadlands Archives Settlement (hereinafter called "the Trustees") are proposing to enter into an agreement with the University of Southampton (hereinafter called "the University") under which the Broadlands Archives, including the Mountbatten papers and thus including the papers





to which the undertakings of 30 March 1969 relate, will be lent to the University so as to enable them to be used for the purpose of furthering research and scholarly work. Both the Trustees and the University recognise that, in so far as papers to which the undertakings of 30 March 1969 relate are to be included in the loan, the loan requires the Prime Minister's express permission, which you have asked me to seek.

The Prime Minister has authorised me to tell you that she is prepared in principle to give her permission for the loan to be made, subject to the following conditions:

1. The agreement between the Trustees and the University will provide that that agreement in no way derogates from the undertakings given in or from the responsibilities accepted by the Trustees under the agreement of 30 March 1969, nor in any way diminishes or alters the requirements upon the Trustees to seek the Prime Minister's approval on matters where such approval is required under that agreement.

2. The agreement between the Trustees and the University will bind the University to observe and abide by, and to give all necessary support





and assistance to the Trustees to enable them to observe and abide by, the undertakings given in the agreement of 30 March 1969.

3. The Trustees and the University agree to incorporate in their agreement such other provisions as the Secretary of the Cabinet on behalf of the Prime Minister may require so as to secure that the purposes of the undertakings given on 30 March 1969 are and continue to be achieved when the Broadlands Archives are lent to the University.

4. The Trustees and the University agree to accept any conditions stipulated by the Secretary of the Cabinet on behalf of the Prime Minister in respect of the papers to which the undertakings of 30 March 1969 relate, including any conditions which may require the Trustees to withhold and not to lend to the University and to keep secure and free from general or particular access certain of those papers, or which may require the University to hold certain papers lent by the Trustees to the University subject to there being no right of general or particular access to them without the prior agreement of the Secretary of the Cabinet given expressly in each case.





If these conditions are accepted by the Trustees and by the University, the Prime Minister will have no objection to an announcement being made by the Chancellor of the University on 11 July to the effect that the Trustees have agreed to lend to the University the Broadlands Archives, including the Palmerston paper, the Broadlands Estate papers, the Mount Temple papers, the Shaftesbury papers, the Ashley papers and in principle the greater part of the Mountbatten papers, so as to enable them to be used for the purpose of furthering research and scholarly work.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Southampton.



# Grey Scale #13



**A**

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**M**

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