



10 DOWNING STREET

Note for Record.

Prime Minister spoke to
Winston Churchill as briefed.
She said she could not
comment on security matters
though she did go on to
add that "I have full
confidence in you".

The rest of the discussion
was about circumstances in
which he had joined and left
~~broader~~ Opposition front bench.
In particular he complained that
Mr Atkins, then the Opposition
Chief Whip had been hostile
to his appointment. Prime Minister
said she regretted that Mr
Churchill had not spoken of
this to her at the time.

AT

1/3



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Andrew Turnbull from ML-B 22/2/89

Winston Churchill is seeing the P.M. on Tuesday at 4pm. I have strongly advised him that you should be present, but he is reluctant, and will let me know on Monday.

A few weeks ago he settled his libel action against David Leigh of the Observer. This was to do with the accusation in the original Spycatcher draft which suggested that Stephen Hastings and he had indulged in treasonable activity to bring about the fall of the Wilson Government. (settlement terms - WSC £20,000 + SH £10,000 + Lawyers £170,000 = £200,000 !)

The day the Observer were due to publish their apology Barry Penrose of the Sunday Times telephoned to say that they were running a story to say that Winston was one of the 6 Conservative MPs on the list alleged by Dale Campbell-Savours to have been presented to the Prime Minister when she came to office. He was robust and said he would like to see the evidence + that he would not hesitate to sue. The story was not published and that evening Andrew Neil telephoned to say that they had no evidence.

Winston wishes to satisfy himself that there is no foundation in these allegations. Should the story be published, he will have to consider whether to sue, and is understandably

very deeply concerned about the prospect of doing so.

Shortly before our conversation seemed about to end he mentioned what is clearly a deep, possibly deeper, frustration. He was of course dismissed from his shadow appointment because of his vote (in 1978?) over Rhodesia. He has never been subsequently appointed to any position and is fearful that this may be because he has been considered a security risk either for the reasons mentioned above or because of his affair, which was ended before the 1979 election, with Mrs. Khashoggi.

I had no knowledge of the reason why Winston wished to see the PM before today. The meeting could be put off because she is seeing Cranley Onslow first and Winston would like half an hour. There might thus be insufficient time. She will however have to see him some time + I think the sooner the better.

I will inform the Chief Whip about this.

M.B.

Ref. A089/554

MR TURNBULL

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (1)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

You asked for advice on Mr Lennox-Boyd's manuscript note of 22 February.

2. The allegation that six Conservative MPs were listed by the Security Service in 1979 as being unsuitable to hold Ministerial office was made by Mr Aitken during the Committee Stage of the Security Service Bill on 17 January. It was subsequently taken up by Mr Dale Campbell Savours - notably in a point of order on --- 13 February (see Hansard extracts attached).

3

In addition, the Principal Private Secretary receives, from time to time, a more restricted list of MPs who should, as far as possible, be denied access to information classified Confidential and above. Mr Winston Churchill's name has never appeared on any of these lists.

4. When she sees Mr Churchill on Tuesday, the Prime Minister may wish to speak along the following lines:

- cannot comment, one way or the other, on allegations about advice provided by Security Service;



- understand that Editor of The Sunday Times confirmed that they had no evidence for story that Winston Churchill was on any Security Service "List of MPs": that must be sufficient comfort for Winston Churchill and presumably story will not appear;
- can put his mind at rest that security considerations have not stood in the way of his appointment to Ministerial office.

On the third point, the Prime Minister will want to consider whether if an MP about whom there were security problems approached her in the same way, the precedent of this assurance to Mr Churchill could cause embarrassment. I think it would not: the Prime Minister would only be telling Mr Churchill about the considerations in her own mind, not about advice from the Security Service. As such the assurance would be individual to Mr Churchill and not constitute a precedent for what the Prime Minister might say in another case.

R.R.B.

ROBIN BUTLER

23 February 1989

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Aldridge-Brownhills, really is extremely well drafted, because if it was in the Bill it would allow MI5 to investigate such organisations, provided they really were a threat to national security, but with the very important rider that any such activities being investigated must not of course include

"lawful advocacy, protest or dissent, unless carried on in conjunction with any of the activities referred to in paragraphs (a) to (d) above", and they basically cover espionage, sabotage, and so on.

Mr. Rupert Allason (Torbay): Is it not the case that very often the Security Service may receive information from reliable, or perhaps unreliable sources? I mentioned yesterday a boastful conversation between two suspected KGB officers, the implication being that there was some kind of contact with a particular organisation. Is it not therefore the responsibility of the Security Service to make investigations and not to continue surveillance for ever and a day, but legitimately to look at a particular organisation or a particular individual where allegations have been made, and then perhaps to clear that person? Surely we cannot limit the role of the Security Service to at least conducting that preliminary investigation.

Mr. Aitken: I understand the point my hon. Friend is making and I think the answer is really this. Of course we cannot blame the Security Service for chasing after what it believes to be a genuine scent for one reason or another, but at least amendment No. 47 will stop it running after a lot of false scents because it will have to remember not just what a rumour about a contact may be but its duty to make sure that the organisation concerned is not just involved in lawful advocacy, lawful dissent. So it is a good clause and a good amendment to have on the statute books.

May I now turn to a third area in which I believe MI5 tread from time to time, which again seems to be outside the terms of this Bill. I understand that the director general of the Security Service from time to time advises Ministers, and advises in particular the Prime Minister, on matters which could loosely be called security matters but are not absolutely security matters involving terrorism, sabotage, and the undermining of parliamentary democracy. For instance, I am told that the director general of the Security Service of the day regularly advises an incoming Prime Minister after an election if, in the view of the Security Service, there are any candidates around who might be considered for ministerial office who could constitute a security risk. This has certainly been true in the past, as we know, from memoirs about advice given to former Prime Minister Lord Wilson. Indeed, there was the rather hilarious case when he was advised not to continue the ministerial career of the right hon. Member for Plymouth, Devonport (Dr. Owen). This turned out to be a confusion between a David Owen and a Will Owen.

Mr. Tony Banks: There was another case, of course, where Harold Wilson was given advice by the security services not to appoint Judith Hart, now Baroness Hart, because the security service had confused two Harts, one of whom was a member of the Communist party named Tudor Hart. The fact is that mistakes can be made, but of course, for those who are trying to climb up the greasy pole in this place, they could actually be fatal in political terms.

Mr. Aitken: I take the hon. Gentleman's point, and behind it, of course, lies the important argument in this

debate that any such advice, however well-meaning it may be, is of course advice which falls outside the terms of the Bill's definition of the functions of the Security Service. Just in case Labour Members think that these kinds of mistakes are totally confined to their side of the House and to Labour Prime Ministers, they may perhaps be interested to know that I was told—I believe reliably—that just after the 1979 general election no fewer than six parliamentary colleagues from these Benches were fingered by MI5 as being in some way not quite suitable for office. I cannot believe they were all saboteurs or terrorists, or indeed, that they were trying to undermine parliamentary democracy—the very process that sent them back to Westminster.

Mr. Allason: I have no role to defend the Security Service, but it seems to me that in the cases of Hart and Owen it was not necessarily the Security Service that made a mistake. Is it not the case that Will Owen was in fact prosecuted? He was acquitted, but he subsequently admitted to having conducted espionage. Similarly, with the case of Mrs. Hart, there were two Mrs. Harts; one, Mrs. Jenifer Hart, who had been in touch with Soviet Intelligence officers, and a second, Mrs. Tudor Hart, who was mentioned.

The point I am making is this: it has been assumed by the House that the blunder or error in mistaking these names or confusing these identities was a mistake made on the part of the Security Service, and that is not my information.

Mr. Tony Banks: One was a politician trying to be a Minister.

Mr. Aitken: I do not think there is necessarily anything wrong with the Security Service, if that is its defined role in law, advising Ministers or the Prime Minister that it has good grounds for believing that X or Y inside or outside this House is a security risk. The point is that these functions are not in this Bill at all. The only people they should be fingering in this way are terrorists, saboteurs, or those who are involved in espionage or threats to national security. That is a very different category from the kinds of activities I am getting at.

My serious question to my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is this: is the remit of the Security Service really as narrow today as clause 1 in its present form says it is? In the past I think I have given enough indications to suggest there are areas where MI5 is operating which are outside the narrow areas of definition of this Bill, and I really do commend amendment No. 47 to my right hon. Friend. I think it would certainly provide a far better definition.

Can I now turn to amendment 78, which is the one moved by the hon. Member for Caithness and Sutherland, which is to knock out completely subsection (3), which refers to the economic well-being of the United Kingdom outside the British Isles. I want to know why MI5 should be involved in this activity at all. Surely activity outside the British islands is for the Secret Intelligence Service. Why is our domestic Security Service suddenly being sent out to monitor the gnomes of Zurich who are speculating against sterling? I really cannot understand this clause and what it is getting at.

There may be times when it is necessary to protect against threats to the well-being of the United Kingdom. For example, I hope the Security Service was on the ball when Mr. Arthur Scargill went to see Mr. Gaddafi to try

Point of Order

3.31 pm

Mr. D. N. Campbell-Savours (Workington): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. You will recall that, some weeks ago, the hon. Member for Thanet, South (Mr. Aitken) raised the issue of the six Conservative Members who have been identified as a security risk by the Security Service. You will recall also that I have raised this matter repeatedly—at column 866 on 24 January, column 1041 on 25 January, columns 1185 and 1204 on 26 January and at column 122 on 30 January. You have given me rulings on this matter several times. The first time you advised me to go to the Leader of the House. He told me that he could not answer questions on matters of security. I accept the answer that he gave me. You then ruled on a further point of order which I raised with you, and said that I should take the matter to the Procedure Committee. I went to the Procedure Committee, and I have to advise you of its reply. It said:

"It was the unanimous view of the Procedure Committee that in no way could consideration of this, or any matters concerned with security, fall under the normal interpretation of the terms of reference of our Committee."

You will understand, Mr. Speaker, that my case has always been that if Members of Parliament are not fit to be Ministers because they cannot be trusted with classified material, which was the effect of the statement made by the hon. Member for Thanet, South, members of Select Committees who may have been subject to the same scrutiny should not have access to classified information. I have identified in the Chamber at least two Committees to which classified material is made available. Indeed, this afternoon, in the Public Accounts Committee, we shall once again be examining classified material. May I put it to you, Mr. Speaker, that we need a ruling whereby this matter can be opened up?

As you will understand, I am not satisfied if some Members of this House whom the security services do not regard as trustworthy are to be given access to classified material. We know that at the moment there are six such Members. We know not who they are; we know only that they are Conservatives, and in saying so, I am not scoring political points—[*Interruption.*] It was the hon. Member for Thanet, South who said that these six Conservative Members had been identified by the security services. All I want is a ruling whereby we can move forward.

Will you please consider this matter, Mr. Speaker, and tell me to which Committee I can go next to have it examined further?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think I can help the hon. Member. I have given him two suggestions, but, as he well knows, it is not my role to indulge in giving advice as to tactics. I can only suggest that he might now seek to win time for a private Member's motion, which might enable him to develop the matter further. I cannot give a ruling on something over which I have no authority.

Mr. Campbell-Savours: You suggest, Mr. Speaker, that I should seek to win time for a private Member's motion in a ballot of potentially 640 Members, to deal with an urgent matter concerning Committees of this House. However, today, and over the next few weeks, classified material will be being examined. Surely it is wrong for the House to have to wait for some form of adjudication on

these matters. That material may fall into the hands of Members whom the security services have identified as unreliable. This is a matter for the House of Commons, not for the Government, and I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to give us a ruling as to which Committee we can go to next.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member must pursue this with the Leader of the House. He cannot pursue it with me; it is not a matter for me. He has taken it to the Select Committee, which has said that it is unable to deal with it. I cannot deal with it either.

Mr. Campbell-Savours: Mr. Speaker, you could advise me—

Mr. Speaker: I cannot, and there is no point in the hon. Gentleman's pursuing the matter. I have no authority to do it.

Mr. Campbell-Savours: In your reply Mr. Speaker you referred to the need for me to go to the Leader of the House. The Leader of the House has said:

"The hon. Gentleman knows the answer that he will get. I am not prepared to comment on matters of security, but, as the hon. Gentleman will be well aware, it is ultimately for the House to decide on membership of Select Committees."—[*Official Report*, 26 January 1989; Vol. 145, c. 1185.]

The House cannot decide upon this matter because the House does not have information as to who these six Conservative Members of Parliament are—nor, indeed, does the Committee of Selection.

We cannot just allow this matter to fall by the wayside. It is important. We are talking about classified material. We are talking about information relating to defence contracts, perhaps even contracts such as the one on which you, Mr. Speaker, had to rule a year and a half ago—the Zircon project. How do we know that those six Conservative Members of Parliament do not have access to that information? We know that they could not get it as Ministers, because, according to the hon. Member for Thanet, South, their appointments were blocked by the security services. I am trying to find out—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. Member is taking up private Members' time. This matter arose in a speech made by the hon. Member for Thanet, South, (Mr. Aitken). I have no idea whether the hon. Member was right or wrong. What he said was his responsibility not mine. I have no authority to do as the hon. Gentleman wishes me to do. He must find ways of pursuing this matter other than through the Chair.

Mr. Campbell-Savours: There is another way that I can pursue the matter, but the problem is that because I do not have a name and therefore cannot approach one of the Members, perhaps privately, to make a complaint to the Select Committee on Privileges I am not in a position to press the matter. You could advise the Select Committee on Privileges to examine this matter in a general sense without any Member having to lodge a complaint.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. Gentleman knows the rules about that. If he maintains that it is a matter of privilege, he should raise it in the appropriate manner, which is to write to me about it. Before he does so, however, I have to say to him that I cannot be held responsible for what hon. Members may allege in the Chamber, provided that what they say is in order. The hon. Gentleman is being very unfair to his colleagues by

[Mr. Speaker]

taking time out of private business. [Interruption.] There may come a day when he finds himself in a similar position.

Mr. Campbell-Savours: You say that the hon. Member for Thanet, South made a statement that perhaps was unsubstantiated. He said:

"Just in case Labour Members think that these kinds of mistakes are totally confined to their side of the House and to Labour Prime Ministers, they may perhaps be interested to know that I was told . . . reliably"—[Official Report, 17 January 1989; Vol. 145 c. 190.]

The hon. Gentleman said "reliably," so it was not a question of conjecture. He made a specific allegation.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Very frequently hon. Members allege that they have reliable information and very frequently it turns out to be highly unreliable.

Mr. Campbell-Savours *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not intend to hear any more about this matter.

Mr. Campbell-Savours *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: I have already told the hon. Gentleman that I do not intend to hear any more about this matter.

Mr. Campbell-Savours *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: I have already dealt with the matter.

Mr. Campbell-Savours: I am dealing with classified material.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I ask the hon. Gentleman to resume his seat.

Mr. Campbell-Savours: I am dealing with classified material.

Mr. Speaker: Again I ask the hon. Gentleman to resume his seat.

Mr. Campbell-Savours *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Gentleman will not resume his seat, I shall have to ask him to leave the Chamber for the rest of this day's sitting.

Mr. Campbell-Savours *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I order the hon. Member to leave the House for the remainder of this day's sitting.

Mr. Campbell-Savours: Am I being asked to leave the Chamber?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Campbell-Savours: I shall be back.

The hon. Member then withdrew.

Moral Values

3.41 pm

Sir Hal Miller (Bromsgrove): I beg to move,

That this House recognises the different but complementary roles of the Church and State in our society; and calls on all sections of the Church, including that by law established, to fulfil their leading role in the promotion of moral values.

I move this motion with some diffidence, as I have no wish, nor is it any part of my purpose, to give offence. I am conscious that I am one of the frailer vessels on the Ecclesiastical Committee and I am most grateful that other hon. Members are to take part in the debate. I very much regret the absence of the Ecclesiastical Committee members. The Committee is to meet the archbishops later today. In particular I regret the absence of the right hon. Member for Selby (Mr. Alison) who has provided me with much help, encouragement and information, and who, I know, wished to take part in the debate. I acknowledge also my debt to the Earl of Lauderdale and the right hon. Member for Suffolk, Coastal (Mr. Gummer). None of them wishes, of course, to take any responsibility for my remarks.

All four of us are members of an organisation called Church In Danger, but the debate purposely goes wider than the Church of England, as is recognised by the presence of the Minister of State, Home Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Oxford, West and Abingdon (Mr. Patten) who I am sure will lend wit, wisdom and a wider perspective to our deliberations. Despite the advice and fears of many of my hon. Friends about my temerity in raising the subject, I felt that I should take this opportunity to air matters that have been giving me cause for much concern.

Dame Elaine Kellet-Bowman (Lancaster): And many others, too.

Sir Hal Miller: The origin of the concern in my own case is the growing perception that Church spokesmen are speaking with a great deal of certainty in the realm of politics but with increasing uncertainty in the realm of things of the spirit. Thus, in the past year one diocesan newsletter in my diocese was headed "Tax Cuts are Immoral". Another was devoted to a consideration of our nuclear defence policy.

Other bishops have attacked the deregulation of buses and the proposals that schools should opt out of local authority control and, most recently, I heard one bishop looking forward to attacking the proposals in the White Paper on health. I am not, of course, objecting to the clergy's right to have political views or to express them, but they should not express those political views in their guise as clergymen or bishops, with the sacred authority thus implied. In other words, I do not believe that they have the right to speak on such matters from the pulpit or the throne. I find it odd and offensive that clerical spokesmen can, apparently, deny the basic beliefs of the creed, contemplate the ordination of divorced people—and I speak as a divorced person—and purport to celebrate homosexual marriages.

It seems that the church is becoming a battleground—I nearly said playground—for activists with distinctively minority views. Labour Members are only too painfully aware, as reselection looms, of what that involves and the Synod of the Church of England is in danger of attempting



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

Prime Minister

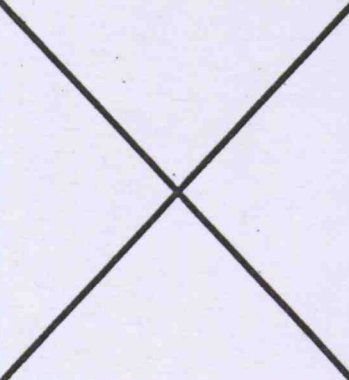
Mark's note sets out Winston Churchill's concerns. The note from the Cabinet Office sets out a line to take. You could rely solely on the third of the three points but I feel that that, without the first point, could be misinterpreted as being a statement about ^{political} security rather than a statement about his fitness for office.

In answering his questions, it is probably better not to give the impression that specific enquiries have been made about Mr Churchill's security status.

He is reluctant to have a Private Secretary present, but that is no problem. Mark can debrief.

AT

27/2

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>2845</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: <i>Wicks to PM dated 29 September 1987</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	<i>22/12/2016</i> <i>G. Gray</i>
MISSING AT TRANSFER	
NUMBER NOT USED	
MISSING (TNA USE ONLY)	
DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY)	

Instructions for completion of Dummy Card

Use black or blue pen to complete form.

Use the card for one piece or for each extract removed from a different place within a piece.

Enter the department and series,
eg. HO 405, J 82.

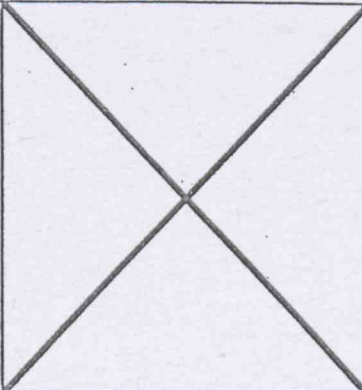
Enter the piece and item references, .
eg. 28, 1079, 84/1, 107/3

Enter extract details if it is an extract rather than a whole piece.
This should be an indication of what the extract is,
eg. Folio 28, Indictment 840079, E107, Letter dated 22/11/1995.
Do not enter details of why the extract is sensitive.

If closed under the FOI Act, enter the FOI exemption numbers applying to the closure, eg. 27(1), 40(2).

Sign and date next to the reason why the record is not available to the public ie. Closed under FOI exemption; Retained under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958; Temporarily retained; Missing at transfer or Number not used.

The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <u>PR6M 19</u> PIECE/ITEM <u>2845</u> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: <u>LETTER TO T A WOOLLEY</u> <u>INC ATTACHMENTS</u> <u>DATED 29 SEPT 1987</u>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	 <u>3/12/2016</u>
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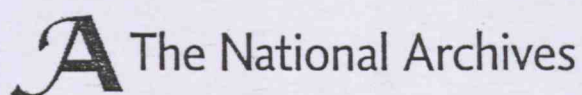
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DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i>	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM <i>2845</i> (one piece/item number)	
Extract details: <i>Wicks to Cubbon dated 28 September 1987</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	<i>5/12/2016</i> <i>G. Gray</i>
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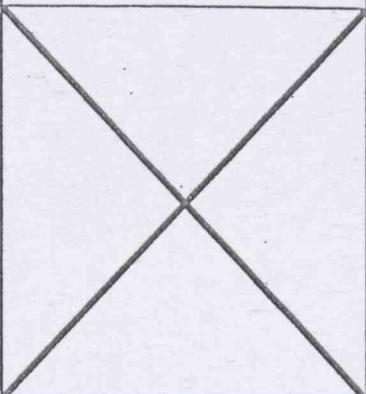
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DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PLM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>2845</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: <i>NL WICKS TO PRIME MINISTER DATED 25 SEPT 1987</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	<i>AKB</i> <i>3/12/2016</i>
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	
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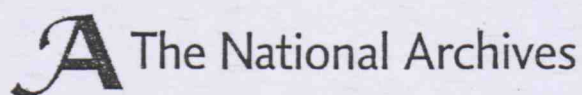
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DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PLM 19</i>	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM <i>2845</i> (one piece/item number)	
Extract details: <i>SARA TO ANDY</i> <i>DATED 28 SEPT 1987</i> <i>INC 2 ATTACHMENTS</i> <i>-- JOHN WAKEHAM TO BERNARD WEATHERILL</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	<i>[Signature]</i> <i>3/12/2016</i>
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2.

M

Security

SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR JOHN HUNT

Appointment of Ministers and
Parliamentary Private Secretaries

The Prime Minister has read your minute to her of 4 May and has seen the nominal list to which you refer in paragraph 2.

The Prime Minister has noted what you say in paragraph 3 about the appointment of a Minister who is not a member of either House: such appointments have been made as you will know in respect of Mr. Mackay (Lord Advocate) and Mr. Irwin Bellow (Parliamentary Secretary, Department of the Environment). But both these persons were well known to the Prime Minister's close colleagues who were dealing with these matters.

As regards Parliamentary Private Secretaries, you will have seen the letter which I wrote to all Cabinet Ministers' Private Secretaries yesterday and I will ensure that a check is made with you before names are put to the Prime Minister for approval.

K.R.S.

8 May 1979

SECRET



SECRET

Ref. A09453

PRIME MINISTER

1.
1.
Prime Minister.
You have seen
the list or X.
KRS.

Appointment of Ministers and Parliamentary Private Secretaries

This minute is about the security considerations that arise in relation to your appointment of Ministers, and subsequently over the choice by Ministers of Parliamentary Private Secretaries.

2. When a Prime Minister is appointing a Minister for the first time, or is moving a Minister to a sensitive Department for the first time, it is customary for him to consult the records of security information about Members of Parliament and members of the House of Lords belonging to the Government Party. These summaries have been brought up to date and are in my possession.

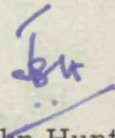
X) Your Principal Private Secretary has a list of the people on this list. This does not of course mean that such persons ought automatically to be debarred from appointment. It does however mean that there is information which you ought to see before reaching any final decision. If you are considering appointing anyone whose name is on the list held by Mr. Stowe I can let you see the relevant information immediately.

3. Secondly, I have a formal duty, following the acceptance of the Security Commission's report of July 1973 on the incidents that led to the resignations of Lord Jellicoe and Lord Lambton (Cmnd 5367), to draw your attention to the Commission's final recommendation, namely that if you are contemplating the appointment of a Minister who is not, or was not until recently, a member of either House, and who may not therefore be well known to you or your senior political colleagues, you should bear in mind the desirability of satisfying yourself that there is no character defect or other circumstance which would mean that the appointment of that person would endanger security. The arrangements set out in the previous paragraph in practice take care of this recommendation provided the person concerned is a member of one House of Parliament.

SECRET

4. In the case of Parliamentary Private Secretaries, it is of course for Ministers to choose whom they wish to appoint as their Parliamentary Private Secretaries. Ministers are however required, and this is stipulated in "Questions of Procedure for Ministers", to obtain the approval of the Prime Minister before any appointment is made. When a Minister seeks your approval, your Principal Private Secretary checks with me as to whether I have any information on the Member which raises security implications. Again, for this purpose, I rely on the information provided by the Security Service. I know there is a point about Parliamentary Private Secretaries which has caused you some concern in the past but this relates to a period before these arrangements came into force. I think the arrangements are now satisfactory in this respect and that the arguments against the formal positive vetting of PPSs are as valid as those (which the Security Commission endorsed) against the positive vetting of Ministers.

5. I am of course at your disposal if you wish to discuss these arrangements.


(John Hunt) 4/5

Grey Scale #13



A

1

2

3

4

5

6

M

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

B

17

18

19



Inches

1

2

3

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Centimetres

Colour Chart #13

Blue

Cyan

Green

Yellow

