

Ref: A02976



SECRET

PRIME MINISTER

MT.

Prime Minister. 6.3

No need for you to do anything about X | I'll send the Attorney General reports to you.

Att.
11/9.

I sent you a minute on 7th July, reporting new information from a defector from the Czechoslovak Intelligence Service about Mr. John Stonehouse (Ref: A02538).

2. I understand that the new information has now been discussed with the Attorney General. He has said that he does not wish the Security Service to take any further action, and he will in due course be informing you of his views on the case.

3. It seems that he takes the view that the new evidence would not be sufficient to sustain a successful prosecution. He may say that it would be impossible to mount a case against Mr. Stonehouse without a full confession and it is thought unlikely that an interview with him would produce this.

4. It is of course for him to decide whether or not a prosecution should be mounted. If his decision is not to mount a prosecution on the basis of the evidence of the defector, I think that it will be for question whether he should none the less instruct the police to interview Mr. Stonehouse and confront him with the new evidence. It may well be that the evidence would not produce a confession, but it is still arguable that the process of interviewing Mr. Stonehouse should not be omitted, given the apparent strength of the evidence. I think that it would be important not to offer Mr. Stonehouse any immunity from prosecution, even if that meant he refused to answer questions.

X

RIA

(Robert Armstrong)

11 September 1980

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