1. M Whitman MW 30. 2. PRIME MINISTER

ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE LONDON, WC2A 2LL

01-405 7641 Extn

The notice leaks enquiry has not modered evidence justifying Mosecution: but the police seem PRIME MINISTER Consider Low to neutralize

TIME OUT - DISCLOSURE OF CABINET COMMITTEE MINUTES

Following my minute to you of 6 December, the Director of Public Prosecutions instructed the Police to investigate the leak of a Cabinet Committee document which had found its way to Time Out magazine. The Police were also asked to investigate another leak of a Treasury document about strikers and supplementary benefit which was also said to be in the hands of Time Out. The latter document had a more limited circulation than the Cabinet Committee document.

The Director has now reported to me that the Police are satisfied that in both cases copies of the documents were sent to Time Out by someone who had access to the copies which had been sent to the Board of Inland Revenue. The Police consider that, in all probability, the leak originated from the Central Division of that Department but they have been unable to find any admissible evidence as to the individual responsible. There does not seem any reasonable prospect of discovering any such admissible evidence and accordingly I have agreed with the Director that the Police enquiries should now cease.

The Police have reported, however, that, on the basis of certain information which they have received, they have strong suspicions which point to a particular individual in the Central Division of the Inland Revenue. There is no evidence to confirm these suspicions although the Police consider that they are reinforced by the individual's association with persons of extreme political views and his apparent interest is anarchist literature.



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Whilst nothing further can or needs to be done by the Police or Director, I am arranging for Sir Ian Bancroft to be told orally about the individual concerned so that he may consider what administrative steps to take in order to deny the individual access in the future to sensitive information.

I am copying this minute to Sir Ian Bancroft and Sir Robert Armstrong.

WH

30 January 1980

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