



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

1 July, 1980

Dear Mr. George,

Thank you for your letter of 10 June.

As I told the House of Commons on 21 November, I do not propose to confirm or deny or comment on further allegations and insinuations of the kind you mention in your letter. The offences alleged would, if the allegations were substantiated, be serious criminal offences. If those making the allegations have evidence to back them up, and they will produce that evidence to the proper authorities, it can be investigated and decisions can be taken on whether to prosecute by those whose business it is to take such decisions. If they do not have such evidence, then they are in my view acting irresponsibly and reprehensibly in publishing their allegations and insinuations and I should be acting no less irresponsibly if I gave them further currency in statements in the House or letters to Members of Parliament.

Mr. Blunt's case was entirely special. He had on his own admission committed serious offences; but I was in a position to say so in a statement to the House only because there was no possibility of prosecuting him, on account of the offer of immunity from prosecution on which his admission - the only available evidence - was based.

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I would add only one other point. In the course of the prolonged and thorough investigation that followed the defection of Burgess, Maclean and Philby and the admission of Blunt, a great many people were interviewed sometimes to obtain any relevant information they could provide, sometimes to see if they could be eliminated from further enquiries. The fact that somebody was interviewed cannot and should not be assumed to mean that he was himself under suspicion, and it would be quite unfair to suggest that it did mean that.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Bruce George, Esq., M.P.