

Press

30th July, 1981

Thank you for your letter of 27th July, with which you enclosed a copy of a Note of the same date which had been sent to the Chairman by David Boddy.

I have shown your letter and its enclosure to the Prime Minister.

IAN GOW

Sir Harry Boyne,  
Conservative & Unionist Central Office,  
32 Smith Square,  
Westminster, London SW1

C. C. O.

27 July '81

Ian Gow, Esq. M.P.  
10 Downing Street

Dear Ian,

After returning from the Media meeting this morning I reported to Lord Thorneycroft that the Prime Minister was rather upset about Julian Hareland's story on the front page of "The Times" and that she evidently suspected a leak from a Central Office source. Lord Thorneycroft said he was quite convinced that this was not the case. He pointed out that the story had begun to run in "The Times" after Thursday's Cabinet and had then been followed up by the "Sunday Times".

David Boddy, who had been our duty press officer yesterday, telephoned Lord Thorneycroft in order to cope with inquiries he had received as a result of the "Sunday Times" story. I enclose a copy of the report he made to Lord Thorneycroft this morning, describing how he dealt with those inquiries.

I'm afraid I can't be of any further assistance in tracing the source of Julian Haviland's story, but if anything should come to light I'll let you know at once. The only journalist to whom I personally spoke yesterday was James Wightman of the 'Daily Telegraph', for reasons of which you are aware.

Yours,  
Harry

Additional note from David Boddy

Following our telephone conversation yesterday morning I briefed a number of journalists on the following:

1. That discussions had been held at the weekend between yourself, the PM the Chancellor and the Home Secretary about such a document.
2. That this document was not a mid term manifesto but was an interim report on where the Government had got, why it had done some of the things it had and where it now was. It was itself designed to answer some of the criticisms of the Government and to present at mid term future developments. In answer to questions I stressed again that this was not a manifesto. That the manifesto of '79 was the basis of Government policy and this would remain so but the future developments would probably be in the way in which the Government would go about its final two years in Office.
3. I said that there had been conversations on the need for such a document and that no final decision had been taken as to whether or not it would be produced, or when it would be produced.
4. In answer to questions as to how the document would be produced I said that it would be done by the Conservative Central Office in consultation with Ministers.

P.M.

~~ST.~~

BIFBNS

RALPH HARRIS

BRUCE GRADY

P.T.