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PERSONAL

Prime Minister

Just possible RU

Dalyell will raise this tomorrow at P.D.s.
NRU 30-6

Ref. A086/1917

MR WICKS

It appears that Mr Tam Dalyell is going to suggest that the reason why the Prime Minister has asked me to stay on till after the Election is because I am the only person (now that Clive Whitmore and Robin Butler have moved on) that she can trust to shred unwanted documents (presumably about the South Atlantic war).

2. By way of background to this far-fetched suggestion, you should be aware of a fact relating to the Suez papers, which are due to reach the Public Record Office on 1 January 1987.

3. On 24 October 1956 a secret meeting was held in a villa in Sèvres, near Paris, at which the French Foreign Minister, Monsieur Pineau, the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Ben Gurion, and Sir Patrick Dean and Sir Donald Logan, representing the British Government, discussed the plan for Israeli invasion of Egypt and subsequent Anglo-French intervention in the Suez Canal region. The plan of events agreed as a result of this discussion was written down, and the document was signed by the representatives of the three Governments, each of which took away a copy. Sir Patrick Dean has recorded that he brought his copy back with him to London and gave it to the then Prime Minister that same evening. That the document existed, and the gist of its contents, is known from books subsequently published by Monsieur Pineau and General Moshe Dayan. There is, however, no copy of the document in the British archives. It is not in the No 10 or Foreign Office papers relating to Suez, and it is not among Sir Anthony Eden's papers. Nor is it among the Cabinet Office papers. The fact that it is not among the papers will become evident after 1 January 1987. As to what became of it, I can only speculate. I think that it was probably destroyed, either

PERSONAL

by Sir Anthony Eden himself or possibly by the then Secretary of the Cabinet, Sir Norman Brook, who is known to have destroyed a file of private papers which he had relating to the Suez affair.

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ROBERT ARMSTRONG

30 June 1986