



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 June 1979

*Dear Nick*

Thank you for your letter of 12 June. I am grateful to you for bringing to my attention the allegations reported by Mr. Kenneth de Courcy about the transfer of papers which belonged to the late Duke of Windsor to the Royal Archives.

In fact, Nigel Fisher brought this to the attention of my office last month. Mr. de Courcy has also written to my Private Secretary on several occasions about these matters, who has been assured by Buckingham Palace that there is no truth in the allegations. The sequence of events concerning the transfer of certain papers to the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle is thoroughly documented at Windsor.

I have noted your warning that the matter may be the subject of legal action in Paris. With this in mind, we had previously drawn the matter to the attention of the Attorney General, so that he would be in possession of the information in the event of any legal action or other publicity involving either the Crown or the office of the Prime Minister. I do not think that I can take the matter any further at this stage, but I appreciate your concern about the implications for the Royal Family, and I have these very much in mind myself.

*Lawrence*  
*Nicholas*

Nicholas Ridley, Esq., M.P.

*DTA*