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Prime Minister.

Mr Hennessy's article about the CCU have not only named names in the past but have come complete with photographs of one or two of the senior officials involved. *RMH 14x1*

Ref. A03556

MR. WHITMORE

Brigadier Bishop in the Cabinet Office received a telephone call this morning from Mr. Peter Hennessy, of The Times, to inform him that The Times would carry an article on Tuesday 18th November about the Civil Contingencies Unit's plans for "the coming winter of discontent". In this article Mr. Hennessy would "name names".

2. Brigadier Bishop made no comment.

3. I suppose that this means that there has been a leak to The Times of the CCU note, circulated to the Ministerial Committee on Economic Strategy, of the current state of planning for possible emergencies this winter.

4. We shall have to wait to see the article. But Peter Hennessy has taken an interest extending now over two years in the emergency planning organisation, and obviously had some source of information with access to CCU papers. When we see what the article actually says, we shall have to consider whether there should be some kind of leak investigation. But one can say in advance that this is unlikely to be a very profitable area for investigation: inevitably CCU papers have too wide a circulation among and within Departments to hold much hope of being able to discover whether and where we have a mole.

5. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Home Secretary's Private Secretary.

Don reduce CCU papers circulation
RTA
RMH

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

November
14th December, 1980

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