

MONDAY 6/5/83



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

6th May 1983

Dear Mr. Storey,

Thank you for your letter of 22nd April. I know of the attention and study which you have given to security matters, and I am grateful to you for writing to me about it.

I must say that I do not think that your reference to "turning away from tough action" is an apt description of the present Government. The Russians have never been allowed to replace the numbers they lost as a result of the expulsion of 105 Soviet personnel in 1971. There have been further expulsions when the facts warranted them. Recently we expelled two Soviet officials and a journalist; when the Russians retaliated by sending back two of our own people, we expelled a further Soviet official.

I think it best that I do not receive a deputation on this subject, since such a meeting would be likely to become known and publicity in these matters is invariably unhelpful. If, however, you will let me have your proposals in writing, I will consider them closely and fully.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

David E Storey Esq

MR. HOWE

I have spoken to Sir Robert Armstrong about the attached letter from the Chairman of the Monday Club, and suggest the attached reply, based on his advice. It is written on the assumption that the Prime Minister would herself want to reply to the Chairman of the Monday Club, but it could be easily adapted if that assumption was wrong.

F.E.R.B.

4 May 1983

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO DAVID E. STOREY

Thank you for your letter of 22 April. I know of the attention and study which you have given to security matters, and I am grateful to you for writing to me about it.

I must say that I do not think that your reference to "turning away from tough action" is an apt description of the present Government. The Russians have never been allowed to replace the numbers they lost as a result of the expulsion of 105 Soviet personnel in 1971. There have been further expulsions when the facts warranted them. Recently we expelled two Soviet officials and a journalist; when the Russians retaliated by sending back two of our own people, we expelled a further Soviet official.

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122 Newgate Street, London, E.C.1.
Telephones: 01-606 1910 and 01-606 7815

22nd April, 1983.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, P.C., M.P.,
10 Downing Street,
London. S.W.1.

Dear Prime Minister,

We have exchanged correspondence only twice, during my Chairmanship of the Monday Club, but I am sure that you are in no doubt as to the staunch support upon which you can depend, from this quarter. Accordingly, I would not be troubling you again, so soon, if I did not think that my reason for doing so was of both great urgency and the most paramount importance.

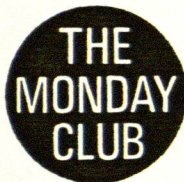
We are very gravely concerned about the enormous potential damage, which could continue to be caused, to our National Security, by the entrenched, gross imbalance in numbers in favour of Soviet personnel in Britain. This state of affairs was exacerbated, of course, by the 1964 Diplomatic Privileges Act which, amongst other things, legalised the "private arrangements" which had already been in concealed existence for the preceding nine years, and whereby the "administrative, technical, and service staffs" of four (now, I think, reduced to three) 'Iron Curtain' States had privileges and immunities (far in excess of those accorded to our best friends and allies) confirmed. That action, coupled with the continuing 50% imbalance in favour of the number on the Diplomatic List at the Soviet Embassy in London, as against our position in Moscow, can only be described as a lemming-like connivance at our own downfall.

In even the campaigning which I have personally undertaken, on this general theme, I have discerned a mounting anger over the way in which successive governments have turned away from taking the kind of tough action with the Russians which is long overdue.

As I think you know, the Monday Club has researched thoroughly the whole subject of Subversion; in particular, we have explored the aspect of 'Iron Curtain' espionage activity in Britain. In this work, we have been guided by your former Parliamentary colleague Cdr. Anthony Courtney who, prior to entering Parliament, was Head of the Russian Section of Naval Intelligence. In the light of the many warnings - given over a long period of time and, not least, during passage of the above-mentioned 1964 Act - he has been fully vindicated. There can be little doubt that, if the warnings given to the, then, Prime Minister, in 1959, by the Commander, Cdr. Maydon, and the Hon. Monty Woodhouse, at a deputation meeting, had been heeded, and if Cdr. Courtney's Diplomatic Privileges Bill of 1966 had passed into Law, the Nation's appalling Security record, in the intervening years, would have been markedly better than, alas, has been the case.

GR only has one file on him. ? FO. 2614

cont'd/



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We believe it now to be absolutely imperative that tough action be taken to redress the glaring disadvantages, which we have brought upon our own heads in recent years. Such action would be entirely in character with the 'Resolute Approach', which has been the great hallmark of the Government which you lead. If it were taken prior to the general election, the Party would gain heavily, and the Labour Party would be - inevitably - seriously handicapped, as a result, by virtue of its left-wing infiltration.

To come to the main purpose of my letter, I am writing to ask if you would be willing to receive a deputation, consisting of Cdr. Courtney, the Hon. Sec. of our Security Policy Committee, Stuart Notholt, and myself. I believe that we have some proposals to put to you which, if implemented, would drastically curtail the scope for 'Iron Curtain' espionage, and be of inestimable benefit to our Nation and to the Tory Party. They are such as could be made public, and be seen by a grateful electorate. If you will agree to see us, I hardly need to say that we would expect to make ourselves available at any time and place which you might suggest.

Yours sincerely,
