

A.S.



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER.

1. A BEAMING ALFRED  
BOUCHÉ THIS IN  
TO DAY.
2. HE IS HAPPY BECAUSE  
HE HAD JUST RECEIVED  
THE LETTER FROM  
ROBIN BULLER.

M

16/5/1983

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MEMO. IN CONFIDENCE.

FROM ALFRED SHERMAN.

Re: " Enquiries."

The matter referred to relates to a visit of mine to the USA in Nov-Dec. 1982, under the auspices of the Cultural Dept. of the US Embassy in London, as "voluntary visitor", i.e. I paid my own fare and hotel bills, but enjoyed their facilities. They arranged for me a fairly traditional public-policy visitor cum journalist programme of meetings with officials, academics, etc., which I supplemented via friendly public policy institutions, e.g. American Enterprise Institute and Heritage Foundation, and friends of friends, e.g. of RV Jones.

I was presented and presented myself as "a member of opinion-forming circles", which at all times and places intermesh with "policy-making circles".

Obviously, the American Embassy here knows me and sometimes invites me to meet visitors, e.g. Meese, and Meyer. My role in the CPS, and the CPS's origins and nexus are a matter of public record. I personally try to play these down as far as can be done without "protesting too much", in favour of my role as observer and contributor to discussion.

In preparing for my Washington visit last year, I indicated my interest in economic policy, Central America and "apex policy-making" where defence, foreign policy, intelligence, politics and economics meet. In this field, it was public knowledge that as a result of the Falklands affair, the impetus towards reexamination of the supradepartmental framework of overall strategy had been reinforced, and that foreign case-studies in this matter were relevant *mutatis mutandis* at this time, a good deal had been written about the renewed interest in an expanded Prime Minister's office, and through no fault of mine, my name had been mentioned as a contributor to debate. I therefore asked for and was given published materials and background meetings on American experience and thinking, from the 1947 National Security Act onwards.

I added to this knowledge at two seminars earlier this year in which I participated, in Rome and West Berlin, on scope for cooperation between democratic public-policy institutes, and improvement in top decision-making and the role of advisers respectively. Among others, I met Dick Allen.

I thought that I had made sufficiently clear my total 'unofficiality' without disclaiming my aspirations to be one of the many people, official and unofficial, indeed alive and dead, who had some input into what policy-makers thought and therefore did. It transpires effectually that I did not make this sufficiently clear in practice, or there would not have been "enquiries". *Mea culpa*, but *minima culpa*, I hope. The point has been taken.

end