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Mr. Butler

Sir A. Acland hopes that you will be able to ring Lord Cromer, explain that our approach to his son has produced nothing and ask whether he is sure that his son was the source of the information.

A.J.C. 5/11.

MR COLES (on return)

attached

You will find in your tray a letter recording the conversation between the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary about Robin McLaren which records that I obtained Lord Cromer's consent for an approach to his son by Sir Edward Youde. When I spoke to him Lord Cromer said that his son was the source for what was said in the letter about Mr. McLaren and was expecting to be approached.

Sir Antony Acland telephoned me at home on Christmas Eve and said that Sir E. Youde had approached Lord Cromer's son, who had said that he had never met Robin McLaren and could not substantiate what was said in his father's letter. So the mystery becomes deeper than ever. Sir Antony Acland and I agreed that we would take no further action until there was an opportunity to discuss the matter with Sir E. Youde when he came to London in January. I have not told the Prime Minister of the outcome of Sir E. Youde's approach to Lord Cromer's son.

3.12.83
S.R. on 3/11.

ROBIN BUTLER

30 December 1983