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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

You will have seen Jim Nursaw's letter of 24 November to me about the cases against Miss Ritchie and Professor Hambleton.

May I look to you for advice on the action which the Prime Minister will need to take when these cases are out of the way. I imagine that there will be pressure for her to make a statement on them. It would obviously be preferable for her to make one statement rather than two. But I suppose that there may be pressure for a statement on the case of Miss Ritchie immediately it is disposed of, which would be as early as Tuesday. Nevertheless, if you think it a sustainable line for the Prime Minister to say that she will make a statement on both cases together when Professor Hambleton's case has been disposed of, this would obviously be more convenient.

F.R.B.

25 November 1982

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

25 November 1982

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your letter of 24 November about the cases against Miss Ritchie and Professor Hambleton. I am following up with Sir Robert Armstrong's office the preparation of briefing for the Prime Minister on statements when the cases are out of the way.

I have shown your letter to the Prime Minister, who has noted the contents of the part of Professor Hambleton's confession which was attached to your letter.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Butler

J Nursaw Esq.,
Law Officers' Department.

p.s. Thank you also for your postscript of today.

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*Top Copy on Security,
March 1982, Miss R.J.M.
Ritchie.*



J. Nursaw

LEGAL SECRETARY.

LAW OFFICERS' DEPARTMENT
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE
LONDON, WC2A 2LL

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25 November 1982

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
LONDON S W 1

Dear Robin,

R v HAMBLETON
R v RITCHIE

A postscript to my letter of yesterday.

At a conference yesterday with the DPP's staff, Treasury Counsel and Bernard Sheldon, the Attorney General discussed the handling at the trial of Hambleton of the Andropov story. It was agreed that for the Attorney to comment that the Crown is unable to say whether the story is true would be inconsistent with the Crown relying upon the confession as a whole as a truthful account of Hambleton's offences. We have no reason to doubt any other part of the confession. In the circumstances, the most that the Attorney General can do is to introduce the story with some such words as "The Defendant says that.....".

I am giving this letter the same circulation as yesterday's.

*Yours sincerely,
Jin Nursaw*

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Top Copy on Security, ~~Bernard Ingham~~
March 1982, Miss R.J.M. Ritchie



J. Nursaw

LEGAL SECRETARY

LAW OFFICERS' DEPARTMENT
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE
LONDON, WC2A 2LL

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24 November 1982

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
LONDON S W 1

You may be pressed for a
statement immediately on
Miss Ritchie, before the
Trial of Hambleton is
concluded.

Dear Robin,

R v HAMBLETON
R v RITCHIE

FERB

24.11.

On Monday 29 November it is anticipated that Miss Ritchie will plead guilty at the Central Criminal Court before the Lord Chief Justice to an offence under section 2 of the Official Secrets Act. Thereafter the Court will try Professor Hambleton who is accused of offences under section 1. Estimates of the length of that trial vary from five working days to three weeks.

I am writing to you because it is inevitable that there will be pressure for a Government statement immediately the trials are ended and in the case of Hambleton (whose spying related to his work in NATO) there is no Department able to answer questions about security aspects of the case. Since the Prime Minister will be under pressure to give details of the cases and to say whether they raise issues which will be referred to the Security Commission, you will wish to begin coordinating the preparation of briefing material. All that I could do would be to provide information about the prosecution evidence and the trials.

I will ask Sir Robert Armstrong's office to do so.

There is one aspect of the case against Hambleton which I must bring to your attention immediately. In a very long confession to the Police he describes his years as a spy in some detail. One of the stories he tells is how the then Head of the KGB came to dinner at his apartment in Moscow and how he asked Hambleton to try to become a member of the Canadian Parliament, offering to finance his campaign. In view of the subsequent elevation of that official, the Attorney thinks that the Prime Minister should be informed that this evidence will undoubtedly come out at the trial. The Attorney thinks it would be quite wrong to take any steps to attempt to conceal it but

/as

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J. Nursaw

LEGAL SECRETARY.

LAW OFFICERS' DEPARTMENT
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE
LONDON, WC2A 2LL

as we have no idea whether it is a true story, he proposes to mention it in his opening speech with the comment that the Crown are unable to say whether it is true.

I enclose a copy of the relevant extract from the record of the Police interview with Hambleton.

I am copying this letter, together with the enclosure, to Brian Fall (FCO) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office) and without the enclosure to John Halliday (HO), David Omand (MOD) and Bernard Sheldon.

*Yours sincerely,
Jim Nursaw*

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EXHIBIT No. 3 (CTD.)

FORM 9900

Record of interview of

Hugh George HAMBLETON

continued

Page no. 60

written. HGH

Q: How competent were their instructors.

A: The language is a great problem if they are not working with Russian speakers. The case of the woman instructor who did not know the chemical name for the white powder, except in Russian, delayed the use of that method in my case by one year.

It was

my impression by the way this instruction was organised that there could not have been a great number of agents coming through that way I thought that such examples as going through Russia on aircraft etc with other people I must have stood out like a sore thumb. HGH

Q: Were other people undergoing

Hugh G Hambleton

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EXHIBIT No. 3 (CTD.)

FORM 9900

Record of interview of

Hugh George HAMBLETON

continued

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instruction.

A: No. HGH

Q: What other things were discussed
other than training.

A: I saw the head of the KGB,
ANDROPOV, he came for an
evening meal at my apartment,
there were seven or eight people
present as well. Paul and the
"American" were there, although
the instructors were not there. HGH

Q: This must have been an honour,
they must have valued you
highly.

A: I don't know, they were interested
to see me. I was asked what
I thought about the future of the
Common Market. I suggested that
I didn't think it would last
long because national feelings

Hugh G Hambleton

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EXHIBIT No. 3 (CTD.)

FORM 990

Record of interview of

Hugh George HAMBLETON

continued

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would rise. HGH

Q: Are you sure it was ANDROPOV.

A: Yes. He asked me general questions, for instance didn't I think the American defence budget was too high. He was worried about the situation in Russia because of high defence spending. HGH

Q: Did he thank you for your work.

A: He didn't have a medal, he thanked me but hoped I could play a role in world trouble-spots in the future. HGH

Q: What did you think he was after in that connection.

A: Political and economic assessments of these trouble spots. HGH

Q: Are the RCMP satisfied that you did meet ANDROPOV.

Hugh G Hambleton

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EXHIBIT No. 3 (CTD.)

FORM 990

Record of interview of

Hugh George HAMBLETON

continued

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A: Yea, I think so.

Then he suggested that I enter the Canadian Parliamentary system to become a Member of Parliament. He said he would finance the campaign. I got the feeling that what he wanted me to do was exert influence on behalf of Russia rather than spying. HGH

Q: What else did ANDROPOV want.

A: The communication people had left a short wave radio with me and I had been listening to Israel and he came out with a statement that there was a lot of prejudice against Israel in the United States and I can only assume that because I listened to Israel on the radio given to me on the visit and in view of the fact that Paul told

Hugh G Hambleton

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EXHIBIT No. 3 (CTD.)

FORM 990C

Record of interview of

Hugh George HAMBLETON continued

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me the flat was bugged, this seemed a crude attempt to show a common stance on alleged anti-semitism in the United States. I was not certain whether he was sincere or not. HGH

Q: What else happened at this dinner.

A: He asked about the attitude of youth towards the USSR.

I answered that the progressive left were perhaps more pro-Mao because it was a new experience. HGH

Q: What did Paul say about ANDROPOV's visit.

A: Nothing at all. They are all afraid of him. HGH

Q: When did they tell you that he was coming to dinner.

A: About three days before he came. He came about the

Hugh G Hambleton

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EXHIBIT No. 3 (CTD.)

FORM 990

Record of interview of

Hugh George HAMBLETON

continued

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fifth or sixth day. HGH

Q: Did Paul suggest it had been
a great honour.

A: Oh yes. Then there was
another thing, a trip organised
to go to Leningrad during the
last few days, so I went with the
"American" on an overnight train
and we went to a "safe" apartment.
The apartment was part of a block
but the remainder of the block
was not "safe".

Q: What other
tasks did they ask you to perform.

A: Paul seemed to have wider
ranging interests or responsibilities
and although the "American" was
specifically interested in the USA.
He wanted me to gather information
on the Hudson Institute near New

Hugh G Hambleton

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