



CONFIDENTIAL

Security  
Prime Minister

MR. BUTLER

Professor Hugh Hambleton

Proceedings in this case were due to start this afternoon.

2. If the Prime Minister is asked about it in the course of Question time tomorrow, I think that she must stick rigidly to the statement that the case is sub judice and that she cannot comment. It would be nice to be able to say in some way that he was not our spy: but any kind of disclaimer could too easily be used by Professor Hambleton's Counsel in the course of the proceedings. Professor Hambleton has pleaded not guilty and I understand that part of his defence is likely to be that he was a double agent, acting for the French and Canadian authorities as well as for the Russians. It is difficult to reconcile this with his confession, but there it is. I think that we have to be very careful not to say anything which could suggest that we were not really interested in him, as part of the case against him is that the disclosure of classified material belonging to NATO damaged the interests of the Alliance and of each of its members, including the United Kingdom.

REA

Robert Armstrong

29th November 1982

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