

MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE

From: Sir Ewen Broadbent KCB CMG
Second Permanent Under-Secretary of State



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 01-218-7115

(Switchboard) 01-218 9000

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO
Management and Personnel Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

2nd PUS/72/3/650

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Dear Robert

LEAK INVESTIGATION

1. You will wish to know that, with my Secretary of State's concurrence, I have requested the Chief Constable of the Ministry of Defence Police to arrange for the MDP to carry out an investigation into the circumstances in which two Ministry of Defence documents - relating to the sinking of the GENERAL BELGRANO - came into the hands of Mr Tam Dalyell, MP. It appears that Mr Dalyell sent the actual documents he received to the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee; and that Mr Kershaw returned them to my Secretary of State, having taken one copy for the Committee's use. Mr Kershaw has requested that the original documents be returned to the Committee in due course. My Secretary of State will be giving evidence to the Committee on this subject in the Autumn.
2. One of the two documents was classified CONFIDENTIAL and the other was UNCLASSIFIED (but contained some politically sensitive material). At the present time it appears unlikely that the leak has resulted in any damage to the security of the nation. But it is clearly highly embarrassing that information on so sensitive a subject should have been released in this way; and it is most worrying that someone into whose hands these documents came should (as it would seem) have deliberately leaked them to Mr Dalyell.
3. At the present time the MDP's enquiries are confined to MOD. Should it be necessary for the investigation to be extended to include the FCO, I will of course consult Antony Acland further.
4. I will provide a fuller damage assessment in due course.
5. I am copying this letter to Robin Butler, Antony Acland and John Jones. I should be grateful if you and they would keep knowledge about this investigation to a very restricted circle for the time being, in order to facilitate the MDP's enquiries.

Ewen Broadbent

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