



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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From: Deputy Under Secretary of State (Civilian Management)
R M HASTIE-SMITH CB

MR PONTING

14 August 1984

Following the statement you made to the Ministry of Defence Police on Friday 10 August admitting a breach of trust in that you photocopied and sent two documents to Tam Dalyell MP, the possibility of prosecution and departmental disciplinary charges are still under consideration. Until these matters are resolved the Department is unable to accept the resignation which you offered me with immediate effect on 10 August. It follows that unless and until a decision is taken to accept that resignation, you are suspended (without pay) with effect from that date.

R M HASTIE-SMITH

LEAK INVESTIGATION - BELGRANO PAPERS

PROPOSED PUBLIC LINE TO TAKE

Line to take. There has been an unauthorised disclosure of information about the circumstances surrounding certain naval operations during the Falklands hostilities. An investigation by the police has been carried out. The conclusions reached by the investigation are now under consideration.

Response to further questions. As the outcome of the investigations may lead to a prosecution, the matter must be considered to be sub judice.