

Personal



Sir Brian Hayes KCB
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Dear Nigel,

I suggest the enclosed amendments to the draft speech. There is clearly a conflict of testimony and I think it right that this should be disclosed — I hope in a relatively innocuous way.

The speech at several points refers to evidence given to the inquiry. You may wish to consider (as may Robert Armstrong) whether this is likely to lead to demands for the evidence or the report to be published, and

whether it might not be better
simply to attribute views to
those concerned.

Cous ever

Brian

Nigel Wicks, Esq.

Page 23.

Substitute the following:

"their Secretary of State and cover from my office for proceeding. My officials made clear to the inquiry that they did not seek my agreement. The officials of DTI told the inquiry that the purpose of their approach to my officials was to seek agreement to the disclosure and to the modalities, and that in their view this was clear. My own officials say that they regarded themselves as being informed and consulted, rather than asked to give my authority. In the event, as I have already told the House, it was accepted that the Department of Trade and Industry should disclose the fact that the then Defence Secretary's letter of 3 January

was thought by the Solicitor General to contain material inaccuracies which needed to be corrected, and that, in view of the urgency of the matter, the disclosure should be made by means of a telephone communication to the Press Association.

I can only conclude that there was a genuine misunderstanding. If my officials had believed...

Pages 24-5. Delete the sentence beginning "It is clear that..."