

PERSONAL



Prime Minister 2

Mr Brittan is very unhappy with the coverage of R.T.A.'s evidence in some of

70 WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AS

01-233 8319 *today's papers. This letter*

From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

was written after

6 February 1986

Ref. A086/415

consultation with the Chief Whip.

(Humphrey Atkins is not viewing the October minutes until next week.)

I was unhappy to see the mischievous twist that one or two of the newspapers chose to give to their reports of my evidence to the Defence Select Committee yesterday, and I know you must have been too. I should be very sorry if I thought that what I said had borne that interpretation. People to whom I have spoken who were there assure me that my answers did not give them that impression. I certainly intended and tried to stick closely to the Prime Minister's statements - including the point that your authority for the disclosure was subject to the agreement of the Prime Minister's office: though none of the papers reports that point, it was certainly covered.

So not much steam in this one.)

*N.L.W.
G.2*

I shall of course be going through the transcript, and shall have an opportunity to make corrections if anything I said was wrong, or wrongly transcribed.

mf

The Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP

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