

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Wicks



RJ (Handwritten initials)

70 WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AS

01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service
Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. A086/483

12 February 1986

Dear Sir Brian,

Thank you for your letter of 12 February about the release of the documents of 4 and 18 October 1985 to the Select Committee on Defence.

I understand that it has been agreed that paragraphs 15-17 of the minute of 4 October and paragraph 2 of the letter of 18 October should be sidelined, and the Committee should be asked not to publish these passages on the ground of diplomatic sensitivity.

Subject to that, I am content that you should send the documents to the Clerk of the Committee, with a suitably amended version of your covering letter.

I am content with the proposed answers for supplementaries enclosed with your letter. I understand that you propose a fifth answer, which would make it clear that the decision whether to publish the documents is for the Committee to make, but that the Government have asked them not to publish certain passages which are marked confidential.

I am sending copies of this letter to Clive Whitmore, Antony Acland, Nigel Wicks, David Morris and Murdo MacLean.

Yours ever

Michael Stann

for Sir Robert Armstrong

Sir Brian Hayes KCB

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