

cc Richard Hatfield
for advice pl
AT
1917

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
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Andrew Turnbull Esq
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Prime Minister ①

18 July 1985

See Roberts office advise that all previous such requests have been turned down.

Agree case not made out?

Yes no

AT 23/7

Dear Andrew

MERCHANT SHIPPING: INVOLVEMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARIES

"Questions of Procedure for Ministers" acknowledges the need to bring Parliamentary Private Secretaries into departmental discussions in appropriate cases, but requires the seeking of the personal authority of the Prime Minister if they are to see papers, or have other access to information, graded Secret or above.

My Secretary of State is holding an all-day meeting on shipping policy early in August. A large part of the meeting will be concerned with the political requirements that need to be met by our policy, and our presentation of it. He regards it as important that his PPS - Angela Rumbold - and David Mitchell's PPS - Marion Roe - should participate in the meeting.

One of the important subjects for discussion will be the adequacy of the merchant fleet for defence needs and for civil re-supply in time of war or other emergency. Much of this material is classified Secret.

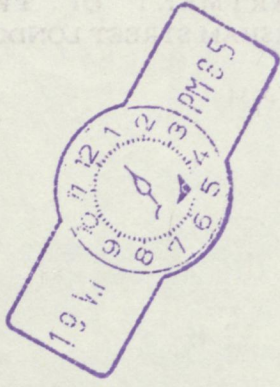
Accordingly, my Secretary of State would be very grateful for the Prime Minister's authority for the two PPSs to have access to material of that classification prepared for, and discussed at, the meeting.

yours sincerely,

Henry Derwent

HENRY DERWENT
Private Secretary

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cc R. Hatfield

10 DOWNING STREET

24 July 1985

From the Private Secretary

**MERCHANT SHIPPING:
INVOLVEMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARIES**

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 18 July. She believes that the normal practice that Secret material should not be made available to Parliamentary Private Secretaries if at all possible should continue to be followed.

(Andrew Turnbull)

Henry Derwent, Esq.,
Department of Transport

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