



10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

26 January 1988

Dear Mr Dalyell,

Thank you for your letter of 7 January.

The Government acted to restrain publication of material from Mr. Anthony Cavendish's book "Inside Intelligence" in order to uphold the lifelong duty of confidentiality owed to the Crown by present and former members of the security and intelligence services. Any advice the Secretary of the D Notice Committee may have given in connection with Mr Cavendish's book has no bearing on that. Furthermore, as I indicated on 13 January in reply to your written Question on this subject, it is not our policy to comment on discussions between the Secretary of the D Notice Committee and the press, broadcasting authorities and publishers.

The Government has complete confidence in the Secretary of the Committee, Admiral Higgins.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Tam Dalyell, Esq., M.P.