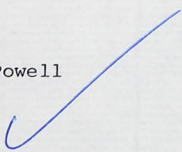


PRIME MINISTER from Charles Powell



The Mail on Sunday have got the story of the missing documents (you will know what I mean). They seem to have got virtually all the details, and the source is pretty clearly the Metropolitan Police (the story has been obtained by their crime reporter, and the Met have confirmed the details). The secretary of the D Notice Committee is seeing the Editor of the Mail at the moment. We hope to dissuade them from running the story or at least only to use a bowdlerized version. If that fails, we have the option of going for an injunction. Michael Quinlan has already sworn out an affidavit. The MOD are, of course, considering what to say to the Americans in the event that the story is published.

There is little more I can tell you at present, except that we are doing our best to keep the story suppressed. We shall probably not know what degree of success we achieve for three or four hours.



JEAN

1420: 29 December 1990