



cc10 SW

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 December 1982

Dear Anthony

Thank you for your letter of 4 December about current security issues. You will not expect me to comment in detail on the points in your letter, but I greatly appreciate your expression of loyalty and your offer of help, which I will keep in mind.

Yours
Margaret

Commander Anthony Courtney, O.B.E.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

You have seen earlier correspondence between the Prime Minister and Commander Anthony Courtney about security matters. I enclose for your information the latest instalment in that correspondence. The Prime Minister decided to send a general acknowledgement and not to deal with the specific points mentioned in Commander Courtney's letter.

F. E. R. BUTLER

14 December 1982

PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Howe has passed to me the attached letter from Commander Courtney, which is the successor to previous letters from Commander Courtney about security, as you will recall.

I suggest that, rather than commenting on the Monday Club Press Release attached to Commander Courtney's letter, you send him a general acknowledgment in the attached terms, and that if there are any points in Commander Courtney's letter on which you would like more detailed comments, I will get them for you from Sir Robert Armstrong.

F.R.B.

13 December, 1982

MR. HOWE

You showed me the attached letter from Commander Courtney. This is one of a series of letters from Commander Courtney, and I suggest that we advise the Prime Minister to adopt a similar technique to that used previously, i.e. that she sends only the briefest reply to Commander Courtney and that if there are any points in his letter which she thinks worth following up or getting comments on, she then asks me to do so.

The sort of reply I have in mind is:

"Thank you for your letter of 4 December. I greatly appreciate your expression of loyalty and your offer of help, which I will keep in mind."

If you would like me to submit this from our office, let me know. We did, in fact, deal with the earlier correspondence. If you decide to submit it, please could you let me have a copy to keep our file of correspondence with Commander Courtney up to date.

F.R.B.

Robin:
I think it would
be better if you
do deal with it, if
you don't mind
David

10 December, 1982

fg
pps?
From Commander Anthony Courtney

Personal

Mulberry House,
Urchfont,
Near Devizes,
Wiltshire.

Hon. Margaret Thatcher P.C.M.P.,
10 Downing Street,
London,
S.W.1.

4th December 1982

Dear Margaret,

From the recent flood of Security scandal in the Press, it would seem that the warnings which I have given to successive Governments over the last 20 years have been fully justified. My various proposals for reducing Soviet espionage activity have not, however, yet been accepted, and I enclose a copy of a Monday Club Press Release dated November, 1981, regarding a possible Amnesty for Soviet agents, which I hope you will look at in the light of the latest circumstances.

You must surely by now have lost some of your confidence in your advisers on Security, more particularly those within the Foreign Office organization, and I repeat that I should like to help, if you thought I could be of use. After all, my efforts of so many years ago were considered by the KGB to be so dangerous to the Soviet networks in this country that it was decided to mount an unprecedented operation with the object of removing me from active politics. The successful outcome of the operation was largely due to an influential Conservative, Theo Constantine, whose disloyalty effectively lost Harrow East to the Socialists in 1966, and whose machinations prevented my subsequent re-adoption as Prospective Conservative Candidate. Two years later, when I sued him, this man was adjudged in the High Court to be a liar and a slanderer. Since then you have seen fit to grant him a Life Peerage. The whole affair is an example of the brilliance of Soviet defamation techniques ably assisted, in this instance, by the Conservative party organization.

Having fought five elections in the Conservative interest, and won three of them, I hardly expected such treatment by my Party, believing, as I still did then, that loyalty counts for something in politics. You personally have retained mine, in spite of all that has occurred, and if in the new situation you could make any use of my specialized knowledge and experience I remain at your service.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony

Enc.

PRESS RELEASE

AMNESTY FOR SPIES

RELEASE TIME: 12.00 NOON, THURSDAY, 12th NOVEMBER, 1981.

AMNESTY FOR SPIES

For more than ten years the Monday Club has advocated the public declaration of an Amnesty, under conditions of the greatest secrecy, for British Agents of the Russian Intelligence Service.

This would counter the danger of Soviet reprisals against individuals and enable them to come forward and confess. Such a move would destroy overnight the confidence placed by the K.G.B. in agents now operating in this country and would constitute the best means immediately available of countering a continuing menace to our security.

The proposal has been steadily opposed by the Foreign Office, resulting in a growth of public doubt about the loyalty and efficiency of our Secret Services, coupled with an increasing embarrassment to the Government. Had our suggestion been implemented at the right time much of our current trouble could have been avoided.

A General Amnesty of this description should be declared without further delay, and proper political control re-established over the Foreign Office, whose irresponsibility and untrustworthiness in this field cannot, in our view, be any longer tolerated.

Soviet union

Comm A country unites

Jan 80

For more than a year the Monday Club has advocated the public
abolition of an industry under conditions of the present economy.
The further stages of the economic intelligence service.
This would reduce the danger of Soviet espionage activities in
the event of a complete and complete. When a move would destroy
overnight the confidence placed by the U.S.A. in agents now operating in
this country and would constitute the most serious security available
of course with a continuing revenue to our security.
The request has been made to the Foreign Office, resulting
in a number of reports which are being reviewed and efficiency of our
Secret Service, coupled with the increasing requirements of the
Government. But our suggestion has been implemented at the right time
much of our current work is to have been avoided.
General Amesty of this description would be desired without further
delay, and proper political control re-established over the Foreign
Office, these responsibilities and arrangements in this field
cannot, in my view, be any longer delayed.