



L03ATQ

file

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

The Prime Minister has seen Sir Robin Ibbs' minute of 12 June about the report in the Times of that day based on the publication of a DTI memorandum containing selective quotations from Sir Robin Ibbs' letter of 22 August to the Secretary of State.

The Prime Minister agrees that it would be helpful to remind Departments that Sir Robin Ibbs' correspondence and dealings with Ministers are confidential, and will be happy with his suggestion that you might mention this at one of your regular meetings with Permanent Secretaries. Subject to your views, the Prime Minister is also inclined to think that it would be a good idea for Sir Robin Ibbs to write to the Times in order to remove the slur on the management of the DTI which Mr. Bevins' report implied. I mentioned this suggestion to the Secretary of State in the margins of Cabinet this morning and he said that he would be content for Sir Robin to write to the Times for this purpose.

I am copying this minute to Mr. Mogg (Department of Trade and Industry), Sir Robin Ibbs and Mr. Bernard Ingham.

*RM*

13 June 1985





NBPM

Ref. A085/1606

MR BUTLER

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*attached*

I have seen Sir Robin Ibb's note of 12 June to the Prime Minister about the report in The Times of 12 June.

2. If the Prime Minister agrees, I will mention at my next meeting with Permanent Secretaries the need to treat Sir Robin Ibb's work as confidential, save where it is specifically agreed that it should be otherwise.

*RA*

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

13 June 1985

CONQUEROR