

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



CONFIDENTIAL

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

9 July 1982

Prime Minister

MS.
ACK
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Dear Tim

I attach a note on the information that we have so far about this morning's incident at Buckingham Palace. The details are, of course, subject to correction [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

The Home Secretary is keeping in close touch with the Commissioner and will, of course, be receiving a full written report.

Yours sincerely
C. J. Walters

C. J. WALTERS

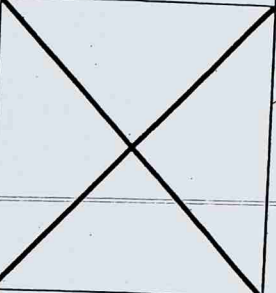

Tim Flesher, Esq.

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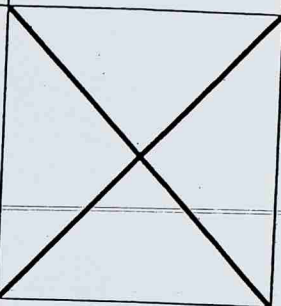
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DEPARTMENT/SERIES	PREM 19	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM (one piece/item number)	1623	
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Buckingham Palace (Incident)

3.30 pm

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. William Whitelaw): With permission, Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a statement.

I have to report to the House that a man was arrested in Buckingham Palace on Friday morning after entering the bedroom of Her Majesty the Queen. The House will admire the calm way in which Her Majesty responded to what occurred. It will also share my grave concern, and that of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, at this most serious failure in security arrangements. A man appeared in court on Saturday, having been charged in connection with an earlier incident at the Palace. I understand that the facts have been reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who is considering the possibility of charges arising out of the latest incident.

In recent years a number of additional security measures have been introduced at Buckingham Palace, but the latest incident shows that the position is still not satisfactory and that more needs to be done. I have, of course, fully discussed the incident with the commissioner, who is operationally responsible for Royal protection matters. On Friday he appointed Assistant Commissioner Dellow to carry out an urgent inquiry into what went wrong and what lessons are to be drawn for the future. Immediate steps were also taken by the commissioner on Friday to strengthening security arrangements at the Palace. Mr. Dellow has today submitted to the commissioner and myself an interim report on this incident; we shall see a further report later this week.

I am determined, as is the commissioner, that the arrangements for safeguarding the security of the Queen should be as comprehensive and effective as possible. The rapid implementation of the measures resulting from his inquiry will require the closest consultation between the Palace authorities and the police, and will be pursued with the utmost urgency.

I shall make a further statement to the House as soon as I can.

Mr. Roy Hattersley (Birmingham, Sparkbrook): I am sure that the whole House will agree that what the Home Secretary has reported to us today is, to say the least, a wholly extraordinary state of affairs. On behalf of my hon. Friends, I express our relief that the incident ended without harm to Her Majesty.

Will the Home Secretary clarify part of his statement, in the certain knowledge that the security arrangements at Buckingham Palace give us all cause for serious concern? Will he clarify that part of his statement, which is less than precise, involving the first incident? How closely was the first incident, to which his statement refers, related to the occurrence on Friday? Was the same man, as has been rumoured, involved in both incidents? Most important of all—indeed, it is absolutely crucial—will the Home Secretary say what steps were taken to improve Palace security after the first incident; or was it necessary for the *Daily Express* to enjoy its extraordinary scoop before matters were taken with the seriousness that the situation warranted?

I hope that the Home Secretary will accept from the official Opposition that we welcome the urgent and

immediate inquiry that he has promised. We look forward to the further statement that he has undertaken to make to the House in the hope and belief that it will make it absolutely plain that security at the Palace is being improved in the way that is obviously needed.

Mr. Whitelaw: I am grateful to the right hon. Gentleman. Naturally, everyone will welcome what he has said about the relief that no harm came to Her Majesty.

I am advised that for me to discuss further the details of the latest incident, at a time when there is a possibility of criminal charges being preferred, would be wrong, and that I must not respond to the right hon. Gentleman's question.

Improvements to the security arrangements were made immediately on Friday and in no way awaited the publication of the report in the *Daily Express*.

Mr. Hattersley: With respect, I press the Home Secretary not on what he calls the latest incident but on what his statement refers to as the previous incident. I have no wish to break the sub judice rule, but I believe that I am entitled to ask, and the House is entitled to be told, whether, after the first incident, attempts were made to improve the security at the Palace.

Mr. Whitelaw: They most certainly were.

Mr. Patrick McNair-Wilson (New Forest): Will my right hon. Friend agree with me that security is an attitude of mind? Is it true that security duty within the Palace is regarded within the police force as unpopular on account of the boredom, because people believe that electronic devices are carrying out the surveillance, and that the only officers who go in for this duty tend to be either those at the start of their career or those at the end of it who want a quiet life?

Mr. Whitelaw: It is very important for us to consider what Mr. Dellow has to say on the question of the policemen deployed and on the technical arrangements. The incident certainly underlines that, although substantial improvements in physical protection arrangements have been made in the past 18 months, it is crucially important to ensure that the arrangements as a whole are comprehensive and, above everything else, that they are made to work effectively.

Mr. David Steel: The whole House will wish to join with the Home Secretary in the admiration he has expressed of the way in which Her Majesty dealt with the incident. While the Home Secretary has, naturally, a desire to respect the wishes of the Royal Family not to be surrounded by too close a personal barrier of security, nevertheless, he must surely have in mind that the security of the buildings that the Royal Family occupy is of the highest importance.

Mr. Whitelaw: Yes, and it is for that very reason that in my statement I said that

"The rapid implementation of the measures resulting from his inquiry"

that is Mr. Dellow's inquiry—

"will require the closest consultation between the Palace authorities and the police, and will need to be pursued with the utmost urgency."

It is clear that on this occasion there were technical errors, but it is equally clear that there were human errors, too.

Mr. Kenneth Lewis (Rutland and Stamford): Is my right hon. Friend satisfied that there is sufficient use of modern protective technology in safeguarding the Palace?

amended section of the Public Order Act 1936. In fact, we have prosecuted in more cases over the past 12 months and have obtained a much higher rate of conviction than previously. We hope that that process will continue.

Parliamentary Questions

49. **Mr. Edward Lyons** asked the Attorney General what proportion of the parliamentary questions to which he, or the Solicitor-General, have replied in the last six months have related to matters for which the Lord Chancellor is responsible.

The Attorney-General: During the period 1 February to 7 July 1982, 165 questions have been, or will shortly be, answered. Of these, 99 are related to matters for which the Lord Chancellor is responsible.

Mr. Lyons: Does the Attorney-General agree that it is extremely unsatisfactory, not to say bizarre and offensive to the House, that he, uniquely has to answer to this House for a Department in which he has no responsibility or share in policy formulation? Does he further agree that there should be a Minister in the House from the Lord Chancellor's Department? Alternatively, should not the Attorney-General himself be linked in some way with that Department so that he has responsibility for his answers?

The Attorney-General: It would be impossible for me to be linked with that Department. The House has placed upon me a number of decisions of a quasi-judicial nature that I must take without being influenced by anyone else. This is the first time that I have heard the suggestion that the Lord Chancellor's Department should have a Minister of its own, but I shall consider it.

Mr. Archer: Whatever the future of the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Law Officers' Department, does the Attorney-General agree that there can be no justification for exempting those two Departments, alone among Government Departments, from the scrutiny of a Select Committee of the House? Would it not be perfectly possible to exclude such matters as the appointment of judges, but still subject legal services, law reform, the legal aid system, the Official Solicitor and the Public Record Office to a perfectly proper Select Committee scrutiny?

The Attorney-General: This is a hardy annual. Speaking for my Department, about 90 per cent. of the decisions I have to take could not be the subject of an investigation by the Select Committee. It might be slightly different so far as my noble Friend the Lord Chancellor is concerned, but the matter is constantly raised and talked about.

Jury System

50. **Mr. Dubs** asked the Attorney-General if he is satisfied with the present workings of the jury system.

The Attorney-General: I am concerned about some evidence recently available of the suborning of jurors and that people who are disqualified under present legislation by reason of their previous convictions from serving on juries have, in fact, been sitting as jurors.

Mr. Dubs: Is the Attorney-General aware of how welcome was his change of mind not to make major changes in the jury system by means of an amendment to

the Administration of Justice Bill on Report? If he intends to bring about such major changes, will he present them to the House in such a way that they can be debated properly, preferably being preceded by a White Paper?

The Attorney-General: The change is in the qualification of jurors rather than the jury system as such. I do not altogether accept what the hon. Gentleman said because the intended amendment would have been moved on Report and the House would, therefore, have had a chance to debate it. However, as I indicated a moment ago, we decided not to proceed with it. It is a matter that I want to have in law as soon as the House agrees, because I am worried about the number of people who serve on juries but who should not do so.

Mr. Stokes: Why cannot my right hon. and learned Friend go back to the good old days of the law in England when, in order to become a juror, one had to be a man of substance and maturity?

The Attorney-General: The reason is that the House not only moved away from the property qualifications, but, by an amendment that I believe was moved by one of my hon. and learned Friends, reduced the age from 21 to 18. However, all these matters must be kept under review.

Mr. Arthur Davidson: Will the Attorney-General confirm that, whether composed of men of substance or not, juries continue to reach fair and sensible verdicts, by and large, and that the problem of the corrupt juror is relatively small, although disturbing? Will the Attorney-General therefore ensure that any remedy he produces will be limited and do nothing to diminish the respect that the public have for the fairness of the jury system?

The Attorney-General: The problem is not the jurors themselves, but the extent of the attempts made to suborn them. This is an increasing worry and, I regret to say, an increasing worry that we have not fully appreciated in the past. When a juror is approached it has to be reported to the court. Although jurors in practically every case we know of, have behaved completely honourably, for reasons that the hon. and learned Gentleman, as a barrister, will appreciate, it is safer to swear in another jury, with all the delay and further expense that is involved.

Sir Charles Fletcher-Cooke: Is there not a case for looking very carefully at the possibility of reverting to the special jury for long-term frauds and other complicated matters of that sort? Would not that be infinitely preferable to the alternative suggestion of having expert assessors?

The Attorney-General: My hon. and learned Friend is correct. The long-term frauds cause great anxiety. I was told last week of a case which is expected to last more than a year. Miss Smith could be a spinster at the time of the swearing-in of the jury and could have to leave the jury, having married and had a baby, before the end of the trial. That is one of the problems we have in keeping a jury together for long periods.

Private Notice Questions

Mr. Speaker: For the past few days it has been the custom of hon. Members to tell the media first that they are applying for permission to ask a Private Notice Question. I might as well make it clear that I deprecate that practice.

Mr. Whitelaw: It was thought that there was but, if extra measures are now needed, they will be provided at once.

Mr. Edward Lyons (Bradford, West): While there is general relief that the Queen was not harmed by the incident, is not the evil of such an incident that it creates temptation in the minds of others? In those circumstances, should not the Government now consider the security precautions, not only for the Queen but for others, to see whether there are other defects that have grown up within the system over a period?

Mr. Whitelaw: The security arrangements of all other Royal residents are also being reviewed at the present time.

Mr. David Ennals (Norwich, North): Is the Home Secretary aware that the British public are shocked and staggered that this event could have occurred, and that his reference to security being not satisfactory must be the under statement of the year? How could it possibly have happened that a man who had previously been charged with an offence concerning the security at Buckingham Palace was able again to commit a similar offence? It seems incomprehensible.

Mr. Whitelaw: No one is likely to have been more shocked and staggered than I was. We shall have to await Mr. Dellow's report before I can give a further explanation.

Several hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The House will be satisfied if we have two further questions from either side.

Mr. Eldon Griffiths (Bury St. Edmunds). Although the House will be anxious to see the results of the inquiry, does not my right hon. Friend agree that the remedy is important? Will he assure the House that no technical measure will be excluded from the future safeguarding of the Palace and all other residences of Her Majesty and that that shall include thermal intensification devices? Also, will the review deal not merely with Royal residences but with No. 10 Downing Street?

Mr. Whitelaw: The security of all the residences is reviewed constantly. No technical measure that is believed necessary would be excluded.

Mr. Geoffrey Robinson (Coventry, North-West): Does the Home Secretary accept that, although he may not

feel it proper to resign, such is the bewilderment throughout the House that whatever remedies are proposed they must in the end mean changes in the management of the personnel security system? May we have an early statement on that?

Mr. Whitelaw: I have promised that when I see the results of Mr. Dellow's inquiry I shall make a further statement to the House.

Sir William Clark (Croydon, South): Is my right hon. Friend aware that the shock suffered by the nation was that if the man had been a determined terrorist the result could have been catastrophic? Does he agree that all hon. Members welcome his immediate investigation, because the Queen and the Royal Family should have maximum security protection, especially now that terrorism is rife? When the person comes to trial, I hope that the do-gooders will not say that it was not his fault.

Mr. Whitelaw: As to my hon. Friend's latter point, that will inevitably be a matter for the courts and what he described as the "do-gooders" themselves. It would have been a catastrophe had this been a terrorist incident. It is vital that we provide the maximum possible security for the Royal Family and for all people in vulnerable positions. That is what we shall do.

Mr. Robert C. Brown (Newcastle upon Tyne, West): Will the Home Secretary reflect on President Reagan's stay at the Palace and the risk to which he was subjected? Can the right hon. Gentleman suggest confidently to a visiting Head of State that he should stay at Buckingham Palace?

Mr. Whitelaw: President Reagan stayed at Windsor Castle, but security must be the same at all the Royal palaces.

Mr. Hattersley: No hon. Member wishes this to become a matter of controversy across the House, but, in view of the bland answer that the Home Secretary gave to my second question, I must press him once again. He told us that security had improved recently. As that improvement resulted in a man entering the Queen's bedroom, how bad was security before the improvement?

Mr. Whitelaw: That must be considered by all Governments over a long period. In the past 18 months, substantial physical protection arrangements have been made. They have undoubtedly improved the position because they were important. There was a review, the results of which have been substantially carried out.

Falkland Islands Review

3.44 pm

Mr. Tam Dalyell (West Lothian) *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I received notice from the hon. Member for West Lothian (Mr. Dalyell) of an application under Standing Order No. 9. I sent him a letter. Does he wish to pursue his application?

Mr. Dalyell: The subject to which I wish to draw the House's attention under Standing Order No. 9—

Mr. Speaker: Order. In that case, I must tell the hon. Gentleman that this is an abuse of our Standing Order No. 9 procedure. The House decided last Thursday on an inquiry into the circumstances of the Falkland Islands, and to pursue the matter now, in my judgment, is not fair. I have no power to stop the hon. Gentleman, but it is not fair.

Mr. Dalyell: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. What is sauce for the gander, or a Back-Bench Member, is also sauce for the Government goose, in the sense that, as the House of Commons made certain decisions on Thursday about the Franks Committee, shall we have for the rest of the summer either Downing Street or the Foreign Office, or both, leaking information about those matters against each other?

If I should not move the Adjournment of the House on such matters, does not the same apply to Downing Street sources, as outlined by Mr. Anthony Bevens in *The Times*, and is it likely that Mr. Adam Raphael of *The Observer* would have written a detailed front page article about the alleged decisions of the overseas policy and defence committee of the Cabinet, involving Lord Carrington? If I am ruled out of order, should not a decision also be reached on Downing Street and the Foreign Office?

Mr. Speaker: Order. There is a major difference. I have no control over what happens in Downing Street. That is its concern.

Statutory Instruments, &c.

Mr. Speaker: By leave of the House, I put together the Questions on the motions relating to statutory instruments.

Ordered.

That the Housing (Payments for Well Maintained Houses) Order 1982 be referred to a Standing Committee on Statutory Instruments, &c.

That the draft Companies (Accounts and Audit) Regulations 1982 be referred to a Standing Committee on Statutory Instruments, &c.—[*Mr. Goodlad.*]

WELSH AFFAIRS

Ordered.

That the matters of the Annual Report of the Wales Tourist Board for the year ended 31st March 1982 and Regional Policy in Wales, being matters relating exclusively to Wales, be referred to the Welsh Grand Committee for their consideration.—[*Mr. Goodlad.*]

WAYS AND MEANS

NATIONAL LOANS FUND

Resolved.

That it is expedient to authorise any increase in the sums payable into the National Loans Fund which is attributable to provisions of any Act of the present Session relating to finance.—[*Mr. Goodlad.*]