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 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT
 PRIME MINISTER

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The attached letter from the Home Secretary explains that he will not be publishing or making any statement about the final report by Assistant Commissioner Dellow on Royal Security. The report is sent to you for information, and you may like to look at it over the weekend. There is a summary of its recommendations at Flag A.

It is now for DAC Smith, the Deputy Assistant Commissioner appointed to head the Royal Protection Department following the Home Secretary's statement in July, to carry forward the detailed recommendations with the help of the permanent group chaired by the Home Office.

There is one aspect of the report which would affect the organisation of the protection given to you. A lengthy passage of the report is about Assistant Commissioner Dellow's recommendation that there should be a unified Protection Department covering Royalty, Ministerial, Diplomatic and Special Escort. This would mean that the protection given to you and other Ministers would come under the new department and no longer under Special Branch, although Special Branch officers would be seconded to the Protection Department. It is clear from chapter 6 that this recommendation has been strongly opposed within the Force, particularly by Special Branch itself. The covering letter says that the Home Secretary "believes that there is value in this recommendation as a long term goal" but that he "does not propose to authorise a change until DAC Smith's present work is clearly under control and completed".

I gather that, in fact, this means that the Home Secretary is shelving the recommendation indefinitely. So no change in Special Branch's responsibility for protecting you and other

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politicians is in prospect at present.

Discussion of the possibility of such a change is meant to have been kept very close within the police and we should not assume that our own Special Branch officers know about it.

F.R.B.

17 November 1982

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

18 November 1982

Dear John,

FINAL REPORT BY
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER DELLOW

Thank you for your letter of 12 November covering the final report by Assistant Commissioner Dellow.

The Prime Minister has seen your letter and the report, and has noted the way in which the Home Secretary proposes to handle it.

Yours ever,

Robin Butler

John Halliday Esq.,
Home Office.

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HOME OFFICE
 QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
 LONDON SW1H 9AT

12 November 1982

Dear Robin,

FINAL REPORT BY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER DELLOW

Assistant Commissioner Dellow has completed his third and final report on the incident at Buckingham Palace and the Commissioner has sent it to the Home Secretary. I enclose a copy, which the Home Secretary has asked should be given to the Prime Minister.

The Home Secretary referred to the prospect of the report in his statement to the House of 21 July as follows:

"Mr Speaker, Assistant Commissioner Dellow's inquiry will continue in respect of assessments of further physical security measures. In this task, I have asked Mr Dellow to draw on all sources of available expertise, in the public and private sectors. The results of this work will enable the completion of Mr Dellow's inquiry. The work of keeping these matters under review will then be carried forward by DAC Smith."

There was no reference to making any public statement about the contents of the report or even to announcing that it had been received. The Home Secretary does not intend to publish the report in whole or in part, or to make an announcement about it, other than to acknowledge its receipt if asked and indicate that its recommendations are being taken forward as he announced in July, that is by means of the new Royalty Protection Department under DAC Smith within the framework of the permanent group, comprising representatives of the Royal Households, the police, the Household Division and the Property Services Agency, which is chaired by a senior Home Office official.

The report provides a clearer account of the events of 9 July and 7 June than was previously available. The survey of individual residences (Part 5) and the reflections on long term considerations (Part 7) whilst necessarily not comprehensive or complete will be of assistance to those with the continuing responsibilities for these matters. The account in Part 6 of the sequence of events leading to the establishment of the new Royalty Protection Department is, perhaps, unnecessarily detailed. But that is, and can be treated as, past history.

F E R Butler, Esq.

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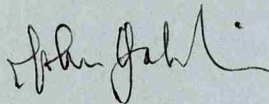
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There are two recommendations in the report which warrant particular comment. Recommendation 9.1 refers to paragraphs arguing for a unified protection department, that is covering Royalty, Ministerial, Diplomatic and Special Escort functions. The Home Secretary believes there is value in this as a long term goal. But, as the Commissioner has been informed, the Home Secretary does not propose to authorise a change until DAC Smith's present work is clearly under control and completed.

Second, the recommendation on the DAC's chain of command (9.4) is ambiguous, proposing that he should ordinarily work to the Assistant Commissioner 'A' with only provision for direct reporting to the Commissioner. The Home Secretary announced in his statement on 21 July that DAC Smith would report direct to the Commissioner, and the Home Secretary has told Sir Kenneth Newman that he is not prepared to accept the suggested change in that arrangement.

Yours ever,



J F HALLIDAY

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