

SECRET



MF

Prime Minister
When trouble comes, they come not single spies

But in battalions!

FERB

26.11

Ref. A082/0303

MR BUTLER

This is to confirm that I told the Prime Minister that a Lance Corporal in the Intelligence Corps at Aldershot had been arrested and was in detention, being suspected of having made an offer to the Soviet Embassy in London to sell classified information. He has stated that he contacted the Soviet Embassy by post or telephone on four occasions in August and September 1982 but that he never actually passed any classified documents or classified information to them.

2. A number of elements in his story are subject to considerable doubt and the matter continues to be under close investigation by the Special Investigation Branch of the Royal Military Police and the Security Service.

3. The Lance Corporal joined the Army in December 1981 and was positively vetted in May 1982.

4. The Attorney General is being kept informed. There appears to be a prima facie case for a charge under Section 1 of the Official Secrets Act which could be tried by either Civil Court or General Court Martial. It will be for the Attorney General to decide in due course whether there should be a prosecution.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

26 November 1982

SECRET