

Robert

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MR FLESHER

You asked for advice for Prime Minister's Questions on stories which have appeared in the press about the involvement of the police and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in leak inquiries.

- 2. Early editions of the Daily Mail claimed that, as a result of a police investigation, the source of the leak to the Guardian of the minute from the Secretary of State for Defence concerning cruise missile deployment had been identified and that papers on the case had been sent to the DPP. This was initially confirmed, erroneously, by Scotland Yard but they subsequently said that this had been a mistake and that they had intended to refer to another inquiry involving the Department of Education and Science. This correction came too late for most papers although it did appear (without referring to the Department concerned) in the Late News column of the Daily Telegraph (attached).
- 3. Inquiries into an attempted leak of information from the Department of Education and Science have been continuing since May, when an unstamped envelope addressed to the Guardian newspaper was returned to the Department of Education and Science by the Post Office. The envelope contained a set of papers concerning the work of HM Inspectorate. The papers were classified "In Strict Confidence" and their publication would have caused embarrassment.
4. The set of papers was identified as belonging to an individual HM Inspector and, while he admitted that they were his papers, he denied having sent them. The Inspector concerned has since retired. An investigation was instituted and the police were brought in. We understand that the police completed their investigation very recently and a report has been sent to the DPP to consider whether there should be a prosecution. No decision on this has yet been taken.

5. It seems that Scotland Yard 'made a terrible mistake' and confused this investigation by the police with the inquiry into the leaked document on cruise missiles. The police have not been brought into that investigation and no report has been sent to the DPP.

Suggested Line to Take

6. "The stories about the inquiry into the leaked document on the cruise missiles are very confused. The police have not been involved in this and no report has been made to the Director of Public Prosecutions. There have been other and separate inquiries involving the police, but the House would not expect me to comment on those."



R P HATFIELD

10 November 1983

By PETER BURDEN, Chief Crime Reporter

## SCOTLAND YARD has identified the 'mole' it believes leaked a secret document on Cruise missiles to embarrass the Government.

Last night a police report was with the Director of Public Prosecutions, who will decide whether to prosecute under the Official Secrets Act.

The document involved was a memo from Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine to the Prime Minister.

It gave possible dates for the arrival of Cruise missiles at Greenham Common and dealt with mounting a Government propaganda offensive on the subject.

### Movements

Only six numbered copies of the memo, stamped secret, are believed to have been distributed from Mr Heseltine's office. It was seen by 24 people at most — a handful of Ministers, senior Civil Servants and their secretaries. But somebody, presumably hostile to the Government, photocopied the document and gave it to The Guardian newspaper, which published it.

A furious Mrs Thatcher ordered an investigation. She and Mr Heseltine instructed their staff to co-operate fully with detectives. Senior Civil Servants have had to account for their movements and their records have been checked.

Now the investigators from the Yard's Serious Crime Squad — CI Department — have told the DPP who they think was responsible for the leak. The Special Branch did not handle the case because there was no question of a foreign country being involved.

Should the DPP decide to prosecute, a misdemeanour charge relating to wrongful communication of information could be brought under the less serious Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, according to a legal expert. That carries a maximum two years' jail.

## YARD IDENTIFY WHITEHALL'S CRUISE MOLE

By Our Crime Correspondent

The probable identity of the "mole" who leaked a confidential Government memorandum on cruise missiles has been given to the Director of Public Prosecutions by Scotland Yard's Serious Crimes Squad.

The memorandum was sent by Mr Heseltine, Minister of Defence, to Mrs Thatcher and contained details about the arrival of cruise in this country and references to a Government programme to combat public criticism about the siting of the missiles.

It is understood that only six copies of the memorandum were made and only about two dozen people, including some Ministers and top level civil servants, saw it.

## MOLE DENIAL

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Scotland Yard said later their confirmation of story was wrong and referred to another inquiry.