



FROM: THE RT. HON. JULIAN AMERY, M.P.

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Confidential

31st January, 1984.

Dear Margaret,

1982

You may remember that I wrote to you on 6th July¹⁹⁸² to let you know about an unofficial meeting which recommended the need to reconstitute, though on a modest scale, a Special Operations organisation such as was formed shortly before the last war and which continued during the war and in the early post war period.

You replied on 30th July suggesting that as a first step I might have a talk with John Nott, then Secretary of State for Defence, on Privy Councillor terms.

I accordingly had a talk with Francis Pym, then Foreign Secretary. His reaction to the proposal to develop the political capability for Special operations appeared to be mainly negative but he agreed to look into the matter further in the light of my representations and to have a further talk.

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I cannot help feeling that this is a branch of policy in which we have been pre-eminently successful in the past and which does call for rather more attention than we have given it hitherto. Nor do I see any reason why we should be embarrassed by leaks. Our public opinion is, I expect, sophisticated enough not to be too shocked if we are found to be giving the same sort of support to freedom fighters against Soviet domination as the Soviets give to dissident movements in the West and the Third World.

Perhaps you would let me come and have a talk to you about all this before I report back to my Committee.

I am copying this letter to Geoffrey Howe and Michael Heseltine.

Yours ever,
Julian
Julian Amery

The Rt.Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP