



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Sir Antony Acland KCMG KCVO
Permanent Under-Secretary of State

14 February 1984

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO
CABINET OFFICE

My dear Robert,

1. There was a preliminary discussion of the implications of the Sarah Tisdall affair at your meeting of Permanent Secretaries on 11 January, when it was agreed to consider the matter again later. Some of the issues involved were covered in more detail in your minute of 12 January to the Prime Minister. You now await Lord Bridge's reply to your letter of 24 January about a possible reference of the case to the Security Commission. *attached 52*

2. Meanwhile you may like to know that we have taken the following steps within the FCO:

- We have conducted a special security inspection of Sir Geoffrey Howe's Private Office, where certain procedures have been tightened up.
- All heads of department and Private Secretaries have been instructed to remind all their staff of the trust reposed in them and of their obligations to ensure the security of information and documents in their possession.
- We have introduced a special PV review for all candidates to posts in Private Offices, and we shall also try to avoid posting very young officers to particularly sensitive posts.
- We are taking steps to enable us to trace photocopies made on official machines (principally by introducing a 'signature' for all photocopying machines to make it possible to identify the machine on which any copy has been made).

3. I am sending a copy of this letter to John Coles.

Yours ever

Antony

Antony Acland

SECURITY

Lead to Guardian

re Greenham Common

Oct. 83.

15 FEB 1984

9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

[Faint handwritten signature]

There was a preliminary discussion of the implications of the Sarah Ladell affair at your meeting of 12 January, when it was agreed to consider the matter again later. Some of the issues involved were covered in more detail at your meeting of 13 January to the Prime Minister. The following is a copy of your letter of 14 January about a possible reference of the case to the Security Commission.

Meanwhile you may like to know that we have taken the following steps within the ECO:

We have contacted a special security inspection of 616 Geoffrey Howe's Private Office, where certain procedures have been tightened up.

All heads of department and Private Secretaries have been instructed to remind all their staff of the trust placed in them and of their obligations to ensure the security of information and documents in their possession.

We have introduced a special TV review for all candidates for posts in Private Offices, and we shall also try to avoid involving very young officers in particularly sensitive posts.

We are taking steps to enable us to trace photographs made on official machines (especially by introducing a 'signature' for all photostaying machines to make it possible to identify the machine on which any copy has been made).



With the compliments of
SIR ANTONY ACLAND

No. 2444.

*A.F.C. 15.
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FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, SW1
15/2, 1984.