



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Security Commission: Miss Sarah Tisdall

The Prime Minister discussed with you this morning your minute of 16 March, and you explained that it would be advantageous for an independent member of the Security Commission's authority to examine the question whether special precautions needed to be taken in relation to Private Office staff. On this basis, the Prime Minister agreed that a reference to the Security Commission should be made. I shall look forward to receiving from you a draft letter for the Prime Minister to send to Mr. Kinnock after Miss Tisdall's trial.

E. E. R. BUTLER

23 March, 1984

CONFIDENTIAL

*cc'd. Roberts
return to me*

MR INGHAM

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

John Stubbs told me that the S.Tel (Carol Stevens) will be running a story on security following the Tisdall conviction. They are likely to refer to Civil Service practices and security. If asked we say:

"The Security Division of the Cabinet Office MPO is responsible for co-ordinating policy on personnel and physical security matters and for arrangements to ensure the functioning of the Civil Service in the event of emergencies. They also provide the Secretariat for the Security Commission."

Rex Davy (Assistant Secretary) is head of Division - he is a civil servant (not MI or police).

JER

J.E. ROBERTS
23 March 1984