

PRIME MINISTER

The Late Kenneth Whitty

Mrs Whitty's solicitor has been in touch with the Chief Whip about the financial arrangements being made for her and her family. (Flag A)

Sir Geoffrey Howe has done his best and Mrs Whitty is very appreciative of the scale of the payments made. A case has been made to the Treasury for Mrs Whitty to receive further compensation by analogy with the terms of the Criminal Injuries Scheme. The Treasury's initial reaction is not optimistic.

You have taken a personal interest in this. Agree proposed reply to Chief Whip's Office? (Flag B)

C D P

I think we must do more, especially to assist the education - and associated expenses of the family. Had the murder occurred here, Mrs Whitty would have received a very large sum from the Criminal Injuries Scheme. I think she should be eligible for the same amount even though the death was not

C D Powell

20 June 1984



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

21 June 1984

THE LATE KENNETH WHITTY

Thank you for your letter of 19 June on the subject of the financial arrangements made for the family of the late Mr. Kenneth Whitty.

The Prime Minister has considered your letter and the draft reply to the Chief Whip enclosed with it. She has commented that she thinks the Government must do more, especially to assure the education and associated expenses of the Whitty family. Had the murder occurred in the United Kingdom, Mrs. Whitty would have received a very large sum from the Criminal Injuries Scheme. In the Prime Minister's view, she should be eligible for the same amount even though the death was in Athens.

BF | You will wish to discuss the Prime Minister's views further with the Treasury to see what more can be done. I shall be grateful to learn the outcome of these discussions. In the meantime I am suspending any reply to the Chief Whip.

Charles Powell

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 June, 1984

Dear Charles,

The Late Kenneth Whitty

Thank you for your letter of 14 June, enclosing a copy of the letter received from the Government Chief Whip's Office about the financial arrangements made for the family of the late Mr Kenneth Whitty.

The Foreign Secretary has been personally concerned to see that generous arrangements are made for Mrs Whitty. These are in hand and I understand Mrs Whitty is very appreciative of the scale of these payments, although as Mr Whitty's Executor says,

We have made a case to the Treasury for Mrs Whitty to receive additional compensation by analogy with the terms of the Criminal Injuries Scheme. I enclose a letter which sets out the background. This request is at the moment being considered by the Treasury Solicitors, but the Treasury's initial reaction was not optimistic.

I attach a suggested draft reply to the Government Chief Whip.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM

Reference

Private Secretary

DEPARTMENT: No 10 Downing St TEL NO:

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Miss Alison Ward  
Government Chief Whip  
12 Downing Street  
London SW1

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT: THE LATE KENNETH WHITTY

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 13 June enclosing a copy of the letter from Mr Henry Boyd-Carpenter, Mr Whitty's solicitor, to the Chief Whip.

CAVEAT.....

Mr Boyd-Carpenter will of course already be aware of the scale of payments which have or are to be made to Mrs Whitty, ie a death benefit, pensions for herself and her children, ex gratia payments in respect of Injury Benefits,

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We understand that Mrs Whitty has expressed her appreciation of the level of this financial provision but, as Mr Boyd-Carpenter points out, remains concerned

Mr Boyd-Carpenter asks whether in view of the circumstances of Mr Whitty's death, HMG could further assist.

Enclosures-flag(s).....

The answer, I am afraid, is that the chances do not seem very hopeful: the provision already made for Mrs Whitty and her family is not ungenerous and the

/provision

~~provision~~ is in line with that made in other cases where  
~~senior officers have died in similarly~~  
~~similarly~~ tragic circumstances.

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The Treasury Solicitors are now considering this  
request, but ~~it should be said that~~ <sup>the</sup> Treasury's  
initial reaction, though sympathetic, was not very  
optimistic. In all fairness therefore Mrs Whitty's  
hopes ~~about the outcome~~ should not be raised, <sup>by</sup>  
<sup>referring to the fact that this</sup> ~~considerable~~ is  
under way.

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s in line with that made in other cases where serving officers have died in similarly tragic circumstances.

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The Treasury Solicitors are now considering this request, but the Treasury's initial reaction, though sympathetic, was not very optimistic. In all fairness therefore Mrs Whitty's hopes should not be raised by referring to the fact that this consideration is under way.



*File No*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

14 June 1984

THE LATE KENNETH WHITTY

*BT*

I enclose a copy of a letter from Alison Ward about the arrangements to be made for Mr. Whitty's family. I should be grateful for advice on what is being done.

*CP*

Len Appleyard, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Government Chief Whip  
12 Downing Street, London SW1

13 June 1984

Dear Mr Powell,

The late Kenneth Whitty

You will recall the case of Mr Whitty, who was murdered in Athens last March, whilst working for the British Council in Greece.

I attach a letter from Mr Whitty's solicitor addressed to the Chief Whip (whom he knows personally). The Prime Minister has expressed some concern about the arrangements made for Mr Whitty's family. Could you kindly give the Chief Whip some guidance as to how best to proceed?

Yours sincerely,  
Alison Ward

Miss Alison Ward

Charles Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street



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YOUR REF.

OUR REF. HBC

12th June 1984

Dear John,

The late Kenneth T. Whitty

I hope that you will excuse me for writing to you about Kenneth Whitty's affairs, but it seemed appropriate to do so, at any rate in the first instance.

You will recall that Kenneth Whitty, for whom I acted during his lifetime and of whose Will I am an executor, was assassinated in Athens back in March. He was an employee of course of The British Council, and leaves a widow and four boys who are being educated privately, three at Malvern and one still at the Choir School at Wells, but shortly to go on to public school.

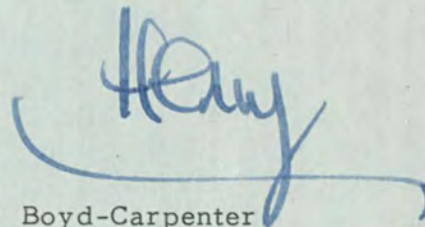
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What I am wondering is whether this is a case where, because of the particular circumstances of Kenneth's death, HM Government would wish and feel able to assist in any way.

In this letter I do not propose to burden you with detail since this is very much an initial and tentative approach, but if you or any other Minister would like more information I will very gladly supply it.

Forgive me for troubling you personally on this subject.

Yours ever,



The Rt. Hon. J. Wakeham, MP,  
12 Downing Street,  
London, SW1.

Henry Boyd-Carpenter

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AGW