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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

You will have received a copy of the Home Secretary's minute of 3 July to the Prime Minister covering a report by a Working Party on controlling the contacts, whilst in custody, of people accused of security offences.

I had envisaged that the Prime Minister would hold a meeting on this submission and the report, but the Home Secretary indicates in his covering minute that he accepts the recommendation about special custody arrangements, and the Prime Minister has indicated that she accepts the conclusions in the Home Secretary's minute that legislation should not be taken to restrict privileged contacts with legal advisers.

BF/

Could you please let me know whether you and the Security Services are content with these conclusions? If so, it does not look as if a meeting will be necessary.

F. E. R. BUTLER

9 July 1984

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Ref. A084/2010

MR BUTLER

Thank you for your minute of 9 July on the Home Secretary's minute of 3 July to the Prime Minister covering a report by a Working Party on controlling the contacts, whilst in custody, of people accused of security offences.

2. I have now discussed the minute and the report with the Director General of the Security Service, and both he and I are content that the Prime Minister should accept the recommendation about special custody arrangements and the conclusions in the Home Secretary's minute that legislation should not be taken to restrict privileged contacts with legal advisers.

RIA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

13 July 1984

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

13 July 1984

Dear Hugh,

Prison Contacts

The Prime Minister was grateful for the Home Secretary's minute of 3 July covering a report by the Working Party to consider ways in which better protection could be provided for security in cases like that of Michael Bettaney.

The Prime Minister has read the report with interest and notes that the Home Secretary thinks that it will be possible to make special custody arrangements on the lines outlined in the report, as had been done in the case of Bettaney. As regards contacts with legal advisers, she endorsed the conclusion which the Home Secretary has reached after consultation with the Lord Chancellor and the Attorney General that legislation should not be taken to restrict privileged contacts.

I am copying this letter to Richard Stoate (Lord Chancellor's Office), Henry Steel (Law Officers' Department), Graham Sandiford (Northern Ireland Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

Robin Butler

Hugh Taylor Esq
Home Office

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