

D. R.

PRIME MINISTER

UPDATE ON DRUGS STORY IN DAILY MAIL

The Home Office have been in touch with Assistant Commissioner Delow. Delow has spoken to many others in the Met, and made pretty exhaustive enquiries. He has uncovered no hint of anything to support the story.

Home Office (and ourselves) are treating this as something for the police to pursue. Delow is going to take up the story with the Mail proprietor, when he can get hold of him. He will be saying that the story makes serious claims, for which the police have no evidence whatever. He will ask the Mail either to make clear the story was without foundation or, if the Mail insists they have any such evidence, to let the police have it so that the proper investigations may be made.

I have just heard that Tim Miles, the journalist concerned, under pressure from the Mail on Sunday, has indicated that the former leading personality at Westminster was Jeremy Thorpe. This seems to confirm that the whole story is a silly season fabrication.

Suzanne

PP MARK ADDISON

24 August 1985

E.R.

PRIME MINISTER

CF.
Prings file, 1st k.

THE DAILY MAIL STORY

The Home Office and the Metropolitan Police are saying they know nothing of any such investigation or report. No.10 are saying you have not taken delivery of any such report, have not asked for one, and are not expecting one.

The Mail is the only paper to carry the story (though, as you know The Times has a small piece which includes a denial). The other dailies decided not to touch it. Tim Miles (the journalist) is refusing to elaborate on his "exclusive" even to his sister paper, the Mail on Sunday, who are not expected to carry it either. It looks very much as if the other papers are unwilling to cover the story because they fear it is a work of complete fiction.

The Home Office are in touch with the police to see if any of the individual elements in the story may have anything in them. This might give a clue as to where the story started. We expect a report later in the day and will phone it through.

Suzanne

PP

MARK ADDISON

24 August 1985