



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

9 May 1983

Dear Richard,

In my statement to the House on 11 November 1982, I announced, after consulting you, that I had asked the Security Commission to investigate the circumstances in which breaches of security had, or might have, occurred arising out of the case of Geoffrey Arthur Prime, who was convicted on 10 November 1982, of offences under the Official Secrets Act 1911, and to advise in the light of that investigation whether any change in security arrangements was necessary or desirable.

The Commission have now completed their task and submitted their Report to me. I assured the House on 11 November that the Commission's findings would be laid before the House to the fullest extent compatible with national security. I think that it would be right to proceed with this business before the dissolution of Parliament. I therefore propose to publish on 11 May, as a Command Paper, the full text of the Commission's Report, but not of four of the appendices to the Report which contain classified information which it would not be in the public interest to disclose. This has been agreed with Lord Bridge and his colleagues.

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In other circumstances I should of course have announced the publication of the Security Commission's Report and the Government's conclusions on it in an oral statement in the House of Commons. In the circumstances created by the announcement of a General Election, I think that this should be done by way of Written Answer to a Parliamentary Question. If you are content with this, I hope you will feel able to put down tomorrow, 10 May, a Question for Written Answer on 11 May. The Question might read:

To ask the Prime Minister, whether she has received the report of the Security Commission on the case of Geoffrey Arthur Prime, and whether she will make a statement.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

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The Rt. Hon. Michael Foot, M.P.