



File AH

cc C.O.

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 February 1982

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 26 January, enclosing a copy of Dr Hollis's letter of 18 January to you.

I much regret the distress caused to Dr Hollis and his family by the continuing publicity for the allegations made about Sir Roger Hollis.

I have, of course, seen and made inquiries about the various articles and letters that have been published since I made my statement in the House of Commons on 26 March 1981. Nothing has happened or been published which would lead me to alter or qualify what I said in that statement.

Dr Hollis asks about the allegation that "in May 1974 an official warning that Sir Roger Hollis might have been a Soviet agent for the whole of his twenty-seven years in the Security Service was given to security chiefs of the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand". There was indeed a gathering of high level officials from those countries at that time, but according to our records the subject of Sir Roger Hollis was not raised at the meeting. There was no reason why

AH

it should have been: the security authorities concerned had all been told in 1971 or 1972 of the outcome of the investigation of the case.

Y  
ours ever

Raymond

---

John Patten Esq., MP

Home Minister

Received in CF 23/2/82

From The Tutor for Admissions

KEBLE COLLEGE  
OXFORD  
OX1 3PG  
Telephone 59201

HW  
23in

Security

Sir Roger HOLLIS papers 18/2/1982

NO

Mr.

file

Dear Mr Thatcher.

John Patten has passed to me a copy of  
your letter of Feb. 11th to him concerning my father the late Sir  
Roger Hollis. May I thank you for this, which will bring  
comfort to the whole family

Yours sincerely

Adrian S. Hollis (A.S. HOLLIS)

~

CONFIDENTIAL



Security

J. U. AA

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

SIR ROGER HOLLIS

I showed the Prime Minister your further minute A07380 of 9 February 1982 about the letter from Dr Adrian Hollis which Mr John Patten MP had passed on to her, and she has accepted your advice that there is no need to mark the letter to Mr Patten "Private and Confidential".

I attach a copy of the letter which has now gone to Mr Patten.

J. U.

11 February 1982

AA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

MR. WHITMORE

Prime Minister -

The revised letter to John Patten is attached for your signature.

In the light of Sir Robert Armstrong's advice do you want to mark it 'Private + Confidential'? If you do, I will have the sentence at the bottom typed in.

I minuted you on 8th February with a draft reply to the letter which the Prime Minister had received from Mr. John Patten, MP about the letter which he had received from Dr. Adrian Hollis.

2. I should be content with the alteration which the Prime Minister proposes to make in the draft reply.

3. Looking at the draft again in the light of that alteration, I think that perhaps we need to be a little more specific about "the investigation". I suggest that we should talk about the "investigation of the case", which was the phrase used in the Prime Minister's statement of 26th March.

4. For convenience I attach a revised draft.

X. 5. The Prime Minister suggested to me this morning that it might be prudent to mark the letter (like Mr. Patten's own letter) 'Private and Confidential', and to add a sentence saying: "I have marked this letter 'Private and Confidential', but I should have no objection to your passing a copy of it to Dr. Hollis".

6. I should have no objection to this course, if the Prime Minister strongly preferred it. But it would of course detract somewhat from the value of the letter to Dr. Hollis, if he were not able at least to quote it to other members of the family and close friends. One or two other people - including a former Director General of the Security Service - have expressed to me the wish that the Prime Minister could make a further statement to counteract Chapman Pincher's continuing allegations. I have said that, while the Prime Minister would no doubt respond if a Question were raised in the House of Commons, I should not wish to advise her to take the initiative: that would only be to give new prominence to Chapman Pincher's allegations. If there is to be no Question in the House of Commons - and there appears to be no rush to follow up the article which Chapman Pincher published in The Times in December - then the reply to Mr. Patten is, or could be, an oblique way of conveying to those who want to hear it that the Prime Minister still sticks to what she said on 26th March.

CONFIDENTIAL

7. Perhaps the acid test is whether, if a Question were asked in the House of Commons, the Prime Minister would be prepared to Answer it in the terms of the draft reply to Mr. Patten. If she would be so prepared - and I see no reason why she should not - then there need be no reason for marking the reply to Mr. Patten 'Private and Confidential'.

8. I have consulted the Deputy Director General of the Security Service (in the absence of the Director General). The Security Service agree with this advice. They assure me that the statements in the draft letter cannot be challenged; and they would see some advantage in not restricting the letter in a way which might inhibit Dr. Hollis from telling other members of his family and former colleagues of his father what it said.

RA

Robert Armstrong

9th February 1982

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO  
JOHN PATTEN Esq., MP

Thank you for your letter of 26th January, enclosing a copy of Dr. Hollis's letter of 18th January to you.

I much regret the distress caused to Dr. Hollis and his family by the continuing publicity for the allegations made about Sir Roger Hollis.

I have, of course, seen and made inquiries about the various articles and letters that have been published since I made my statement in the House of Commons on 26th March 1981. Nothing has happened or been published which would lead me to alter or qualify what I said in that statement.

Dr. Hollis asks about the allegation that "in May 1974 an official warning that Sir Roger Hollis might have been a Soviet agent for the whole of his 27 years in the Security Service was given to security chiefs of the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand." There was indeed a gathering of high level officials from those countries at that time, but according to our records the subject of Sir Roger Hollis was not raised at the meeting. There was no reason why it should have been: the security authorities concerned had all been told in 1971 or 1972 of the outcome of the investigation of the case.

Prime Minister.

The draft reply to Mr Patten  
has been typed for your signature  
and is minimally below Sir Robert  
Armstrong's minute. RMA 8/2

Ref. A07352

MR WHITMORE

--- I attach a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to the letter which she has received from Mr John Patten, MP about the letter which he received from Dr A S Hollis, son of the late Sir Roger Hollis.

2. The draft reply has been agreed with the Home Office and the Security Service.

3. In his letter, Dr Hollis refers particularly to the allegation by Mr Chapman Pincher that in May 1974 the security authorities of certain allied countries were given an "official warning" that Sir Roger Hollis might have been a Soviet agent. As his authority for this, Mr Pincher quotes Mr Kaplan, the present Canadian Solicitor General. What Mr Kaplan has said is that the Canadian security authorities were warned "in the mid-seventies". It is Chapman Pincher who has put that together with the May 1974 meeting, about which he learnt from other sources; and I understand that, when he asked Mr Kaplan to confirm that he had in mind the May 1974 meeting, Mr Kaplan did not reply.

4. The allegation is certainly untrue as it stands. All the security authorities concerned were told about the outcome of the investigation into Sir Roger Hollis two or three years earlier, in 1971 and 1972. There was a gathering in May 1974, but the subject of Sir Roger Hollis did not come up at the meeting. It may be that one of the British representatives at the meeting said outside the formal proceedings that the Hollis investigation might be about to be reviewed; but, if that happened, there is no record of it.

5. As Dr Hollis has made a point of this, and indeed Mr Pincher has relied a good deal on it, we have thought it right to deal with the point in the reply to Mr Patten.

6. Mr Patten's reply was marked 'Private and Confidential'. We have prepared the reply in a form in which Mr Patten can send it on to Dr Hollis. Dr Hollis himself may well want to make some use of it; if he does, we believe that no harm will result.

RMA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

8 February 1982



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

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Dr. Hollis asks about the allegation that "in May 1974 an official warning that Sir Roger Hollis might have been a Soviet agent for the whole of his 27 years in the Security Service was given to security chiefs of the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand". There was indeed a gathering of high level officials from those countries at that time, but I ~~am advised there~~ *is no record that the subject was* that no such warning was given at that meeting. The subject of Sir Roger Hollis was not raised at the meeting, and there was no reason why it should have been: the security authorities concerned had all been told in 1971 or 1972 of the outcome of the investigation.

*According to our records the subject of Sir Roger Hollis was not raised at that meeting.*

John Patten, Esq., M.P.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

*Neil John*

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John Patten, Esq., M.P.

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO  
JOHN PATTEN ESQ MP

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John PATTEN

vb

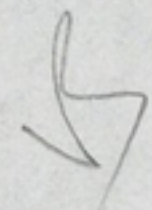
SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Sir Roger Hollis

I should be grateful for your advice on how the Prime Minister might reply to the attached letter from Mr. John Patten, MP, with which he has sent a letter from Dr. A.S. Hollis, son of the late Sir Roger Hollis.

CAW

29 January 1982



JOHN PATTEN, MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

26th January, 1982

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
The Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
LONDON. SW1

*Dear Prime Minister:*

I have recently been approached by Dr. A. S. Hollis, the Tutor for Admissions of Keble College, Oxford, concerning certain allegations made by Mr. Chapman Pincher against his father, the late Sir Roger Hollis.

I enclose his letter to me, together with some newspaper extracts. You will see that Dr. Hollis asks me to see if you will be prepared to issue any further statement following that which you made in March, 1981. I also enclose a copy of my reply to him.

Needless to say, I fully appreciate the extreme sensitivity of the issue, and will of course not send my constituent a copy of this letter. I am of course perfectly content to pass on to Dr. Hollis that you have nothing further to add, if that is what you wish me to do.

*Yrs. ever,  
John.*

JOHN PATTEN, MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

26th January, 1982

Dr. A. S. Hollis,  
Keble College,  
OXFORD.  
OX1 3PG

*Dear Dr. Hollis:*

Thank you so much for your letter of 18th January, 1982.

As a member of the Government, I am, by Parliamentary convention, not able to table a Parliamentary Question (this is the same whichever Party is in power); in any event, I do not believe that that would be the appropriate course of action or would produce the most informative answer.

It seems best if I approach the Prime Minister directly; I have written to her today and I will write to you again as soon as I have a reply.

*Yrs. sincerely,*  
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Patten".

From The Tutor for Admissions

KEBLE COLLEGE  
OXFORD  
OX1 3PG

Telephone 59201

January 18th, 1982.

Dear Mr. Patten.

As you may remember, in March 1981 you most kindly offered to help in any way you could over the allegations made by Chapman Pincher against my father, the late Sir Roger Hollis, in articles and a book. On March 26th, 1981, the Prime Minister cleared my father of these allegations in a Parliamentary statement. Now the less, they have persisted. In particular, family and friends have been distressed by a report that in 1974 Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the USA were warned that my father might have been a Soviet agent (the present Canadian Solicitor General is said to have confirmed that his country did receive such a warning). Chapman Pincher is currently making much of this (two specimens enclosed), and will no doubt continue to do so in a paper-back version of his book which is due out soon.

In view of what the Prime Minister said in March, we find it very hard to believe that any such warning should have been sent. Accordingly, I would very much appreciate it if, on the family's behalf, you could ask the Prime Minister, whether by a Parliamentary Question or a letter (leaving it to your judgment), if anything has happened or been published since March 26th, 1981 which might lead her to qualify her statement or to change her mind. We would also be grateful if you can ask specifically whether the story about the warning is true.

Yours sincerely, Adrian S. Hollis (A.S. HOLLIS).