

Prime Minister

15

For information.

Ref. A083/0151

FC RB

MR BUTLER

17.1.

The Prime Minister will probably remember that the lead which led to Anthony Blunt's confession in 1964 was a statement by an American, Mr Michael Whitney Straight, towards the end of 1963 that he had been recruited by Mr Blunt as an agent of the KGB when he was at Cambridge before the war. In his book "Their Trade Is Treachery" published in 1981, Chapman Pincher stated that it was information given by an American which led to Blunt's confession. The description of the American made him readily identifiable as Mr Straight, and Mr Straight subsequently admitted publicly that the reference was to him.

2. Mr Straight has now written an autobiography called "After Long Silence" which will be serialised in the Observer and will subsequently be published both here and in the United States. Mr Straight says that he has written his book "to explain myself to my children and grandchildren". The Security Service have seen the manuscript. The book is well written and is a unique account of an American's experience of the Cambridge of Blunt and Burgess, who are extensively mentioned in it. It also deals with Mr Straight's later involvement with politics and journalism in the United States.

3. The book contains no information which is not already known to the Security Service or which might be regarded as particularly damaging to the interests of the Security Service.



ROBERT ARMSTRONG

17th January 1983

Secretary
Cabin
Blunt



26 AH

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

The Prime Minister has seen and noted your minute of 17 January to me (A083/0151) about the book "After Long Silence" written by Mr Michael Whitney Straight.

F.R.B.

18 January 1983

AH