

Prime Minister

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Ref. A084/2204

MR BUTLER

I saw Sir Anthony Kershaw at 6.15 pm yesterday evening.

2. He has said that he received a dossier from Mr Peter Wright. It was 160 typescript pages, divided into chapters, like a book, and look as if it was intended for publication as such. Sir Anthony Kershaw said that he understood that the Guardian had a copy of one of the chapters of the dossier. Other newspapers were trying to catch sight of it from him but he was not making any copies available.

3. He had also been approached by Mr Arthur Martin, Mr Steven de Mowbray. In response to any questions from the media he was still saying that he was studying the dossier in order to make up his mind whether it indicated that further inquiries were called for. He supposed that Mr Wright had sent it to him with a view for the matter to be investigated by the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs but that was (as Sir Anthony said) absurd.

3. I said to Sir Anthony Kershaw that everything that Mr Wright had said on the television programme World in Action and everything that has subsequently been written in the press had been carefully and thoroughly studied. There was no new evidence in any of this material; and unless new evidence came to light, I thought that the Prime Minister would be bound to say that no further inquiry was called for: the available evidence had been exhaustively inquired into. I indicated that Mr Wright appeared to have changed his mind somewhat since he was dealing with this matter in 1971; at that stage he seemed to accept the conclusions of the Security Service that the investigations had not found Sir Roger Hollis to be a spy and that there was no case for pursuing with further inquiries. There were a number of discrepancies and errors in the latest material that suggested that Mr Wright's memory was fallible.

4. I went on to say that Mr Wright had not sent a copy of the dossier to the Government or to the Security Service. We should of course very much like to see it and if we saw it it would be carefully and thoroughly studied to see if it contained any new material. Sir Anthony said that he was willing to make his copy available to me so that I could have it copied and arrange for it to be studied. I said that, once it had been studied, I would invite the Prime Minister to write to Sir Anthony Kershaw with anything she wished to say by way of comment on the dossier. In the meantime there would be no objection from the Government's point of view if Sir Anthony Kershaw wished to indicate to the media that he had made the dossier available to the Prime Minister though it was up to him to decide whether he wanted to do so. Sir Anthony Kershaw was content to make the dossier available on this understanding and I have since received it. I shall of course read it myself and, I shall arranged for it to be thoroughly studied by the Security Service. I propose also to invite Lord Trend to read a copy since he was involved in scrutinising the original investigations.

R
Approved by
ROBERT ARMSTRONG
ad signed to go above.

31 July 1984

SECRET AND PERSONAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

Sir Robert Armstrong

Thank you for your minute of 31 July (A084/2204) about your conversation with Sir Anthony Kershaw, which the Prime Minister has seen and noted.

E. R. BUTLER

2 August, 1984.

SECRET AND PERSONAL