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Ref. A085/2546

MR WICKS

The Prime Minister will remember that it was agreed that the Attorney General should apply for an injunction in the High Court of New South Wales to prevent the publication of the memoirs of Peter Wright, the retired member of the Security Service who was the source of the material incorporated in Chapman Pincher's two books.

2. It was further agreed that the application for an injunction should be based on an affidavit to be sworn by me, as the Prime Minister's principal official adviser on security and intelligence matters. One advantage of this arrangement was that it would avoid the need for an appearance in court by a member of the Security Service.

3. I have duly sworn my affidavit, and a supplementary affidavit. Affidavits are now being prepared by the defence.

4. The defence have agreed that there is no need for interlocutory proceedings: they are content to proceed straight to a final hearing, and to allow the interim injunction to stand in the meantime. They are clearly in no great hurry; and we wonder whether Mr Wright's book has actually been completed.

5. Australian Counsel have informed us that the rules of the Court in New South Wales will require my attendance in person for the hearing, to depone to my affidavits and to submit to cross-examination. I shall have to seek the Prime Minister's permission to go to Australia for this purpose; but it now looks as if I shall not be required to do so until the New Year.

RTA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

4 October 1985

SECABJ



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

The Prime Minister has seen and noted the minute which you sent me on 4 October about progress with the Attorney General's application for an injunction in the High Court of New South Wales to prevent the publication of the memoirs of Peter Wright.

Nigel Wicks

7 October 1985

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