

SECRET



file 16 9
a.f.r.p.c.
L04A7H4

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

MR. MALLABY,
CABINET OFFICE

THE PETER WRIGHT CASE

I should be grateful for your advice on a particular point which came up at this morning's meeting but which I have deliberately not set down in the record.

The Prime Minister indicated at the meeting that she might wish to make clear in public, at a suitable stage, the following:-

Mr. Wright had left the Government service in 1976, before this Government took office. This Government was under no obligation to account to Parliament for the actions of the Security Services before they took office. The Government's concern in relation to the Wright case is simply with the breach of confidentiality. The Government is not responsible for the actions of the Security Service, or any other Department, which took place under a previous administration.

From his reaction at the meeting, it seemed that the Home Secretary was unhappy with this approach since, if I understood him aright, it might suggest that the Government were abandoning the Security Service for the time in question.

BF // I should be grateful for advice, cleared with other Departments as necessary, on whether the Prime Minister could make the points above. If so, please could you suggest an appropriate form of words.

N. L. WICKS

19 November 1986

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JB