

SECRET

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MR. WICKS

PETER WRIGHT CASE

I suggest that the main points for discussion at the Prime Minister's meeting at 0930 tomorrow are:-

- a. Turnbull may have interests in seeking a negotiated settlement. But it could just be a ploy to sap our determination. So surely we should be tough in our response, even if it is not blankly negative.
- b. Turnbull will want a book by Wright to be published. A great deal of the book is unacceptable. Therefore any negotiating proposal by us should embody the principle that we judge what is to be deleted. Negotiations on deletions would follow the settlement.
- c. HMG do not set up enquiries at the bidding of the likes of Turnbull.
- d. Our best outcome from this affair is to win the case. Our second best would be a negotiated settlement where publication by insiders, although seen to be permissible, would be made clearly subject to government authority as to text as well as publication itself; and where Wright's book was subject to cuts (in effect) at our discretion.
- e. Arguably it is already the position that insiders publish without authority, through people like Pincher and West. And Wright and Massiter have appeared on television. Could we make an outcome on the lines of d. above stick also in cases like these?
- f. A major consideration is how much chance we have of winning the main case. I shall obtain Sir Robert Armstrong's latest view before the Prime Minister's meeting.

N.L.W

C. L. G. MALLABY

Cabinet Office

24 November 1986

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