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Sen A. Duff

SECRET  
FM CABINET OFFICE LONDON  
TO DESKBY 242200Z SYDNEY  
TELNO MISC 401  
OF 241903Z NOVEMBER 86

FOR ARMSTRONG FROM MALLABY

YOUR TELNO 006 PARAGRAPH 7- PETER WRIGHT CASE

1.

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

2. WE THEREFORE WISH TO STICK TO THE LINES IN PARA 2 AND 3 OF OUR EARLIER TELEGRAM.

3. ON THE ISSUE WHY DEFECTOR INFORMATION IS NOT MADE PUBLIC, WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING LINE IN CAMERA=

A SOVIET OFFICIAL SEEKS ASYLUM IN THE WEST IN ORDER TO LEAVE A TOTALITARIAN REGIME TO LIVE IN A FREE SOCIETY, AND IN ASYLUM HE HAD THE SAME RIGHTS AS ANY OTHER MEMBER OF A DEMOCRACY. DEFECTOR INFORMATION THEREFORE IS NOT NORMALLY MADE AVAILABLE IN DEFERENCE TO THE DEFECTOR'S OWN WISHES. HE (OR SHE) WILL NORMALLY WISH TO PROTECT FAMILY AND RELATIVES IN THE USSR, AND WILL MOREOVER BE CONCERNED FOR HIS OWN PHYSICAL SAFETY. APART FROM HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS, IT IS CLEAR THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE WEST BE SEEN TO TREAT DEFECTORS WITH CONSIDERATION AND DISCRETION. TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD BE TO DISCOURAGE OTHERS WHO MIGHT WISH TO FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE REASONS TO TREAT MOST DEFECTOR INFORMATION AS SECRET. WHEN AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER DEFECTS, THE ORGANISATION FROM WHICH HE COMES CAN NEVER BE CERTAIN HOW MUCH HE HAS REVEALED. THEIR DAMAGE ASSESSMENT MUST THEREFORE BE BASED ON A WORST CASE ASSUMPTION, AND OUR SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES MUST ACCORDINGLY REVEAL AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO MAXIMISE THE DAMAGE TO THEIR OPERATIONS.

4. IF ASKED WHY DEFECTOR INFORMATION HAS NOT BEEN ADDUCED PUBLICLY TO LAY TO REST THE HOLLIS STORY, YOU MAY SAY IN CAMERA THAT ONE CONSIDERATION WHEN THIS WAS LAST CONSIDERED IN OCTOBER WAS THAT IT WOULD LOOK AS THOUGH THE INFORMATION HAD BEEN RELEASED IN ORDER TO PUT PRESSURE ON WRIGHT IN THE CASE IN AUSTRALIA.

YYYY

CYLNAN 0999

Nigel Wicks's

minute of

24/11/86

refers

SECRET



file SKW  
17.

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

24 November 1986

Mr. Mallaby,  
Cabinet Office.

THE PETER WRIGHT CASE: GORDIEVSKY'S VIEWS ON HOLLIS

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute of today asking if the draft telegram attached to your minute may be despatched to Sir Robert Armstrong in Sydney. The Prime Minister is content with the draft telegram, except that she wishes the words "...one of whom was Gordievsky" to be omitted from the indented passage in the second paragraph of the draft telegram. She would wish no mention to be made of any of the defectors, for the very reasons which are quoted in paragraph 3 of the draft telegram.

You also asked, during the course of the day, for advice on the following matters:

- (i) Our Australian team has suggested that it would strengthen our claim for PII if it were possible to say in Court that we had offered to show the relevant documents to the Australian government. The Prime Minister agrees, subject to the agreement of other colleagues, that we can offer to show the documents to either the Australian Attorney General or their Solicitor General, but to no other official. There was some doubt whether either officer would wish to take up this offer;
- (ii) You reported that the Defence Counsel had brandished in Court today the letters which Mr. Jonathan Aitken had sent the Prime Minister on 31 January 1980. You asked whether Sir Robert Armstrong should seek to block these letters being placed on the public record. The Prime Minister would not want us to take action to block these letters.

I am sending a copy of this minute to Tony Galsworthy (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Stephen Boys Smith (Home Office) and Michael Saunders (Attorney General's office).

N.L.W.

(N. L. WICKS)

24 November 1986

SECRET



DEPARTMENT/SERIES ..... <i>PREM 19</i> ..... PIECE/ITEM ..... <i>1952</i> ..... (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: <u><i>Folio 16</i></u> <i>Minute dated 24 November 1986</i> <i>(B.07593), with attached draft</i> <i>telegram</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION .....	
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DEPARTMENT/SERIES ..... <i>PREM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM ..... <i>1952</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details:  <i>Tel No MISC 368 dated 16 November 1986</i>	
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