

FILE NOTE

The case was further discussed by the Solicitor General and the Director of Public Prosecutions on Friday 17 August 1984. The Director handed a copy of the interim police report to the Solicitor General and expressed the view that there was clearly evidence to justify proceedings against Ponting for an offence contrary to section 2 of the Official Secrets Act 1911.

The Solicitor General indicated that he had considered the matter further since the previous meeting and remained of the view that proceedings were appropriate. During the course of the meeting he spoke by telephone with the Attorney General who agreed with him. The Director of Public Prosecutions was asked to arrange for proceedings to be instituted immediately by way of charge.

It was agreed that the police should seek witness statements to prove the continuity of the documents from Sir Anthony Kershaw MP and Tam Dalyell MP. In the case of the former an approach could be made at any stage but in the case of Tam Dalyell the approach should be made after proceedings have been instituted.

S J WOOLER

20 August 1984