

ATTORNEY GENERAL

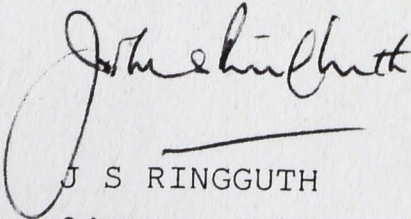
You are seeing the Director at 2.30pm today to discuss:-

1. Clive Ponting

? The Director will bring you up to date with the developments in this case. I suggest that you read the file for the meeting. The police report is attached herewith. No specific decisions will be required of you today in connection with this prosecution, however in due course there is a question of Parliamentary Privilege which will have to be considered further. It would appear that Ponting will plead guilty, but if he does not the prosecution will have to prove that the documents were in his possession and that he communicated them. The Solicitor General has expressed the view that Dalyell should not be used as a witness. If we are put to strict proof then we would need the evidence of Sir Anthony Kershaw, the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee who received the documents from Tam Dalyell. It seems likely that the receipt of documents to the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee would constitute part of "proceedings in Parliament". In these circumstances it appears unlikely that Sir Anthony Kershaw would be able to give his evidence relating to receipt of the documents without the permission of the House.

2. THE ARTICLE IN THE NEW STATESMAN

The Director will report on the present state of the police investigation into the further leak of Government documents including the minute of the then Foreign Secretary, Francis Pym, details of which appeared in the New Statesman on 24 August 1984. Consideration will be given to a prosecution of the New Statesman in relation to this matter.

  
J S RINGGUTH

24 August 1984