

FILE NOTE

CONFERENCE WITH THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS ON
28 AUGUST 1984.

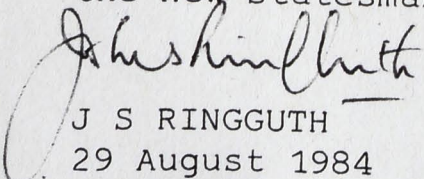
PRESENT: ATTORNEY GENERAL
LEGAL SECRETARY
JOHN RINGGUTH
THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS
(Office of the DPP)

1. PROSECUTION OF PONTING

The Attorney General expressed the view that there was no question but that Ponting should be prosecuted. The question of using Members of Parliament as witnesses and the related matter of Parliamentary Privilege were discussed. The Attorney General considered that if the Crown could prove that Ponting communicated the documents without seeking to rely on evidence from Members of Parliament then they should do so. He had not seen the evidence of the police interview with Ponting, and asked that it be obtained as soon as possible. If the interview revealed that Ponting identified the specific documents as having been communicated by him, then the prosecution would have a prima facie case. The Attorney General asked that Roy Amlot be instructed as soon as possible in this matter, and that an advice from him on the evidential difficulties should be obtained.

2. New Statesman article 23 August 1984

The Director of Public Prosecutions was not in a position to provide the Attorney General/^{with}any firm evidence as to how the New Statesman came by the material on which the article was based. The Attorney General had looked at the minute referred to in the article, and it bore no relation to what appeared in the New Statesman.


J S RINGGUTH
29 August 1984