

FILE NOTE:

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

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

1. PROSECUTION OF PONTING

The Attorney General was shown the police interview with Ponting. He thought there was probably sufficient evidence on the basis of it to proceed without using the evidence of Kershaw and Dalyell. He asked that Roy Amlot now be asked to advise generally if the evidence is sufficient as it stands.

2. FURTHER INTERVIEW OF PONTING

The Director sought the Attorney's directions as to whether the police should now reinterview Ponting in connection with the leak to the New Statesman. This would involve showing him the "Pym minute" of 1 May 1982 (and it therefore becoming an exhibit in the case). The Director also considered that if the police were to interview Ponting about this matter they would need to be able to refer to or show him a copy of the summary he prepared for Michael Heseltine about the history of this incident. Apparently the same mistake appears in that summary as appeared in the New Statesman article of 21 August 1984, namely that the Attorney General and the Foreign Secretary signed a joint minute to the Prime Minister in 1982. The Legal Secretary undertook to obtain the views of the MOD, Cabinet Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office

about the use of these documents. No decision was therefore
taken about the reinterview of Ponting.

John S. Ringguth

J S RINGGUTH
30 August 1984