

FILE NOTE:

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

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

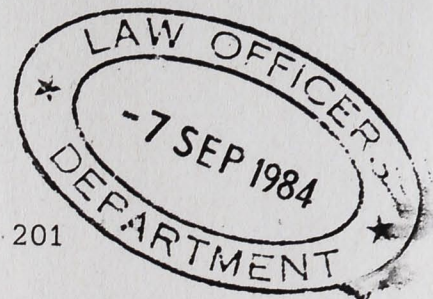
It was decided that Ponting would be reinterviewed about the New Statesman leak but that no specific documents would be put to him. If he says that he did communicate with the New Statesman he can be asked whether he gave them an account of the contents of the 1 May 1982 minute which was set out in the New Statesman article of 25 August 1984.

J S RINGGUTH
31 August 1984



Director of Public Prosecutions
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Henry Steel Esq. CMG, OBE
Attorney General's Chambers
Law Officers' Department
Royal Courts of Justice
Strand
London, WC2

Your reference
Our reference CPL/6433/84
Date 6 September 1984

Dear Henry,

RE: CLIVE PONTING

Ponting has now been interviewed by the police about the further suspected leaks of information to the New Statesman. The interview took place in the presence of his solicitor and, as expected, he answered "no comment" to all of the questions.

Under the circumstances, it is our view that the police should now seek to interview the Editor of the New Statesman and Duncan Campbell about the source of their information. Whilst this is unlikely to achieve any real evidential results, it would be inconsistent if Ponting alone were to be questioned about this matter.

I should, however, welcome your views before any action is taken.

*Mrs Murrell,
Mause*

MRS. M. PHILLIPS
Assistant Director



LAW OFFICERS' DEPARTMENT
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE
LONDON, WC2A 2LL

H. STEEL, CMG OBE
LEGAL SECRETARY

7 September, 1984

Dear Sir,

PONTING

Thank you for your letter of 6 September. I have not been able to seek the Attorney General's views but I am confident that he would approve the police now interviewing the Editor of the New Statesman and Campbell. I share your scepticism that it will produce anything usable but I agree that it would look odd if we were not to do it. It will no doubt give the New Statesman material for yet another story but the risk of that was implicit in the decision to interview Ponting.

H STEEL

Mrs M Phillips
Assistant Director
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