

FILE NOTE

NOTE OF CONFERENCE HELD AT THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE ON 7 DECEMBER 1984

PRESENT: SIR THOMAS HETHERINGTON (Director of Public Prosecution)
ROY AMLOT (Counsel for the Crown)
TIMOTHY LANGDALE (Junior Counsel for the Crown)
MRS M PHILLIPS (Assistant Director of Public Prosecution
(DPP's Office)
MR H STEEL (LOD)
MR J RINGGUTH (LOD)
MR R HASTIE SMITH (MOD)

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO THE DEFENCE

The conference was primarily called to discuss the schedule of documents which the defence required to be disclosed. During this part of the conference Mr Hastie Smith was present and gave MOD's views on the sensitivity of the documents requested and, where appropriate MOD's approval for their disclosure.

It was agreed that LOD would write to the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs seeking, if it was necessary, their permission to disclose the documents requested at B(i)(a), B(i)(b) and B(i)(d).

So far as C(ii)(d) - "The Crown Jewels" was concerned, the MOD could not permit disclosure as it stood but undertook to produce a version suitable for disclosure edited down to "confidential" or "unclassified". MOD were otherwise content to disclose the other documents, and the Director of Public Prosecutions would write accordingly.

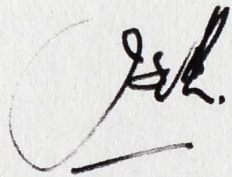
THE CASE GENERALLY

This was discussed in the absence of Mr Hastie Smith. Roy Amlot explained how he proposed to open the case: he wished to do so

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fully showing the full background and importance of the documents which Ponting sent to Mr Dalyell. Despite some reservations this approach was agreed.

The question of jury vetting was discussed. Roy Amlot considered this was the type of case where jury vetting was required if sensitive material was to be looked at. It was agreed that prosecution counsel would discuss with leading defence counsel whether they would require highly sensitive material such as extracts from the "Crown Jewels" to be looked at by the jury. If that was likely, then prosecution counsel would explain that reluctantly the Director would have to seek the Attorney General's permission to have the panel vetted in accordance with the Attorney General's guidelines of the 1st August 1980.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J.S.R.', with a large, sweeping flourish on the left side.

J S RINGGUTH
10 December 1984