



CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

To see.

16/11

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RA

Ref. A0687

MR. WHITMORE

I went to see Mr. Callaghan at 3.00 pm this afternoon, at his request, about the Blunt affair.

2. Apart from wishing to refresh his memory of a certain paper which he had seen in Government, and also to refresh his memory of the events leading up to the statement which he issued on 23rd August 1977 about the Security Services, he wanted to discuss what he should say, in the event of there being a debate. He thought that he would be expected to intervene. He would have to say in that debate - if he had not already had to say earlier - that he knew about Blunt when he was Home Secretary and when he was Prime Minister. He would have to consider very carefully how he would explain why he had acquiesced in the continuing secrecy on Blunt's involvement. He was wondering whether, among other reasons, he might indicate that one consideration in his mind had been a desire not to expose The Queen to unnecessary embarrassment, when there was nothing to gain in security terms by doing so.

3. He would be thinking about this over the weekend, and may wish to have another word with me then.

4. In the meantime, you are going to provide him, subject to suitable safeguards, with copies of certain papers of which he wished to refresh his memory.

RA

(Robert Armstrong)

16th November, 1979