



CABINET OFFICE

With the compliments of  
Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO  
*Secretary of the Cabinet*

C. A. Whitmore, Esq

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS  
Telephone: 01-233 8319

Sir Anthony Blunt

Answers to Supplementary Questions listed in  
The Times of 16th November 1979

\*\*\* Q. 1 What was the nature of the new information that provoked Blunt's confession?

A. This cannot be disclosed.

\*\*\* Q. 2 What kind of material did Blunt pass to the Russians as a member of the Security Service from 1940 to 1945?

A. The information to which Blunt had access in the course of his duties in the Security Service was not such as would, if disclosed to the Russians, have been likely to prejudice British military interests or to have put British lives at risk.

\* Q. 3 Why did the Government of the day not tell Buckingham Palace about their suspicions and interrogations between 1951 and 1964?

A. I cannot answer for previous Administrations. Knowledge of these suspicions was in fact confined to a very few people in the security authorities; wider dissemination could presumably have put at risk their investigations. *my reply of 15 November to the hon member for Harrogate* As the Prime Minister's statement made clear, Blunt had no access to classified information and was not a security risk after 1945. It is in any case questionable whether it would have been right to disseminate or act upon suspicions which could not be proved and had been strenuously denied.

X Q. 4 How did Blunt help Russian intelligence to get Burgess and Maclean out of Britain?

A. There is nothing to add to paragraph 6 of the Prime Minister's statement, *my reply of 15 November* It was a warning from Philby that tipped off Burgess and Maclean, and Blunt was used simply as a contact in making arrangements.

⊗ Q. 5 What did Blunt do for the Russians between 1945 and 1951?

A. During this period Blunt had no access to classified information. We have no reason to disbelieve his statement that there was no activity during that period.

Q. 6 Who<sup>m</sup> did Blunt implicate while helping the Security Service with their inquiries?

A. Though *my reply of 15 November* (as the Prime Minister's statement said), Blunt gave useful information, there was nothing which could be used as evidence for the purposes of bringing charges.

⊗ ⊗

Q. 7. How did this case differ from the case of George Blake, where the evidence against him was based on his confession?

A. Blake's confession was not induced by an offer of immunity from prosecution. There was not thought anything to be gained by such an offer in that case.

cc Mr. Whitmore, No. 10  
Mr. Chilcott, Home Office  
Sir Brian Cubbon, Home Office  
Mr. Beckett, Law Officers' Dept.