



CONFIDENTIAL

Seen by the P.M.

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PRIME MINISTER

I went to see Lord Home of the Hirsel at 11.30 am today.

2. Lord Home said that he had been worried about the reports in the Press and the broadcasting media which hinted that Ministers might have been told about Blunt's confession in 1964 but might have forgotten.

3. I took Lord Home through the sequence of events, beginning with a meeting which he held in February with other Ministers about another security case, and going through to the Director General's note of his meeting with the Home Secretary on 17th June 1964 when he told the Home Secretary and Sir Charles Cunningham about Blunt's confession.

4. Lord Home said that he still could not recollect having been told anything about it. It was surprising that he should not have been, since the matter affected The Queen and the then Home Secretary had always been scrupulous about reporting to him and keeping him informed about security matters. Lord Home supposed that the Home Secretary could have mentioned the matter to him orally at the end of a Cabinet meeting, and he might have failed to hold the matter in his mind. But he thought that he could hardly have forgotten being told of such a matter, and that he would almost certainly have wanted to talk to the Secretary of the Cabinet about it and perhaps to hold a meeting with the Home Secretary, the Attorney General and the Director General of the Security Service. I said that I had recently talked to Lord Trend, who had no recollection of being brought into the matter before 1972 (though I have since learned that it was mentioned to him by Sir Charles Cunningham in 1967). Lord Trend has no recollection of being told by the Home Office or the Prime Minister in 1964. I told Lord Home that there was no record in the papers of his having been told by the Home Secretary. Clearly this was not conclusive since such matters were often not committed to writing.

5. I told him that Lord Brooke was being told about the two meetings at which he was informed. I promised to let him know whether, when Lord Brooke's recollection was thus prompted, he also recalled telling the



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Prime Minister. If Lord Brooke did not recall telling the Prime Minister, I thought that you might want to say in your speech tomorrow something to the effect that it was the Home Secretary's responsibility to inform the Prime Minister; to those who know Lord Brooke it would be surprising if he did not do so, even if neither of them now recollects that he did. Lord Home said that he would have no objection to something on these lines.

6. If he was asked about the matter, he could only say that he did not recollect ever having been told of the matter, but he supposed that his memory could be at fault.

7. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Home Secretary.

(Robert Armstrong)

20th November 1979

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Prime Minister.

A very nice letter.

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Fountain Court, Temple, London EC4 9DH.
01-353-7356

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Private Sec to PM

Dear Sir,

My father rang me up at about 7.30 last night and told me, among other things, that he had been very touched by the Prime Minister's remarks about him in the Commons yesterday.

I thought that the Prime Minister would like to know this. As a family we have been very anxious for him over the last fortnight - while knowing that it would be ludicrous to think of him involving himself in anything shabby - and we are all very grateful to the Prime Minister for putting his part in the affair so clearly and sympathetically on the public record.

Yours sincerely

Henry Brooke