

C.F. to note



10 DOWNING STREET

Original  
LGR  
Security

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 December, 1979.

Dear Mr. Stewart,

Thank you for your letter of 26 November about the grant to Professor Anthony Blunt of immunity from criminal prosecution.

Immunity from criminal prosecution in Scotland is the responsibility of the Lord Advocate, and he would be consulted in any question relating to prosecution for an offence where the suspect was within the jurisdiction of the Scottish courts. There was no information at any time to substantiate the commission by Professor Blunt of any offence in respect of which the Scottish courts were able to exercise jurisdiction over him. In these circumstances the Lord Advocate was not consulted.

It would not be proper for me to request the Lord Advocate to initiate any criminal prosecution: if evidence of an offence in respect of which Scottish courts were able to exercise their jurisdiction came to his notice, the decision whether to prosecute would be for him alone to take in the light of all the information available to him, including the grant of immunity from prosecution in England.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. Donald Stewart, M.P.