

SECRET



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

Prime Minister

30 May 1986

You asked for explanation of the comment at x below which Sir A. Jeff put in his management report.

Dear Nigel,

N.L.W

SECURITY SERVICE

30.1

In your letter of 12 May about the management report produced by the Director General of the Security Service you asked for clarification of the Director General's comments in paragraph 9(e) about the "failure [of the Service] to obtain the support which [it] deserved and needed from Government". The Prime Minister noted that the Security Service has never lacked support, including financial support, from this Government and asked for the Director General's further comments.

The Director General agrees with the Prime Minister that the Service has not, in fact, lacked support, and he did not intend paragraph 9(e) to give this impression. The point which he was seeking to make was that the staff of the Security Service thought that for many years the Service had not been given the support and backing it needed to fulfil its functions. The general belief was that this was because the Service had not put its case properly or perhaps forcibly enough to Whitehall.

The Director General acknowledges that these perceptions had their origin in a failure of management to explain the practical issues to staff and that this is not fully brought out in the drafting. He is hopeful that the management changes which have already been made or which are in hand will improve internal communications. Meanwhile, the recent decision to give the Service a permanent pay edge over the Civil Service has convinced the Service of the Government's support for its work and the staff are very grateful for this.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Michael Stark, Cabinet Office.

Yours,
S W

S W BOYS SMITH

The explanation does not hold water -

surely the prime minister should not stand

N L Wicks, Esq

SECRET

What is the point of sending a letter in every way it faced with this false attempt



SECURITY

BETTANEY

10/83

SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

12 May 1986

SECURITY SERVICE

The Prime Minister has now studied the Home Secretary's recent minute which covered the report by the Director General of the Security Service on the Service's general management. The Prime Minister has agreed that the report should be sent to the Chairman of the Security Commission. This has now been done under cover of the Prime Minister's letter attached.

There is, however, one point in the Director General's report on which the Prime Minister would welcome further information. The Director General comments in paragraph 9e that staff of the Service feel that they had been seriously let down by:

"failure, as they perceived it and for which they held their managers partially responsible, to obtain the support which the Service deserved and needed from Government"

The Prime Minister does not understand this comment. The Security Service has never lacked support, including financial support, from this Government. She would be grateful for the Director General's further comments.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Stephen Boys Smith, Esq.,
Home Office.

(N.L. WICKS)

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