

SECRET

B.07611

MR WICKS

Peter Wright Case

In paragraph 4 of your letter of 1 December you said that I, in consultation with the Law Officers' Department, should check the truth of reports that Mr Greengrass of Granada Television was a member of the Defence Counsel's team in the case in Sydney and might be in court during proceedings in camera, and see what assurance we could get that he would not communicate matters referred to in camera to others.

2. Sir Robert Armstrong has confirmed that Paul Greengrass, producer of "World in Action" and probably also Wright's ghostwriter, is part of Turnbull's team. He sits immediately behind Turnbull in court and feeds him material for cross-examination.

3. When the court first went into closed session, Turnbull asked that Greengrass should stay, as one of his advisers (though not a legal adviser). Our Counsel objected, but the judge ruled that Greengrass could stay, subject to undertakings to the court and to us that he would not disclose to others matters referred to in camera. Undertakings, for what they may be worth, were given. Sir Robert Armstrong considers that the defence would leak anything said in camera, if it suited them, with or without Greengrass being present. Sir Robert has tried to be guided accordingly.

4. Our team in Sydney are being asked to renew the attempt to have Greengrass excluded if there are proceedings in camera at the new level of the Appeal Court.

5. There are signs that some people in the media know of Greengrass's presence in the proceedings in closed court, and are concerned.

6. I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Home Secretary, and to Michael Saunders in the Law Officers' Department.

*C L G Mallaby*  
C L G Mallaby

2 December 1986

SECRET

*Pome Minutes* 4  
*Absolutely disgraceful.*

*N. L. W.*

*2.12*

*at Par*

SECURITY

WRIGHT

PT 4



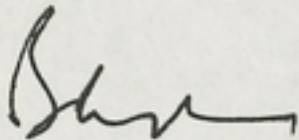
CONFIDENTIAL

c: Mr Wicks

MR MALLABY

Please see the attached extract of Greengrass's interview on BBC Radio 4 'Today'.

Our team in Sidney will be interested in the attached guidance note I have prepared for the Prime Minister.



BERNARD INGHAM

4 December 1986

Unchecked.

PAUL GREENGRASS - REPORT AND INTERVIEW ON WRIGHT CASE

Transcript from: BBC Radio 4, Today, 4 December 1986

PRESENTER: (Brian Redhead) ... .. Greengrass who's said to be on Peter Wright's defence panel and that there are allegations that he's been leaking information from the court hearing to Mr Neil Kinnock. I understand Mr Wright's defence counsel has had something to say about all that?

REPORTER: (.....) Yes he has. He issued a press statement first of all describing Mr Greengrass, quite accurately so far as I know, as a television producer and saying that the statements that have been made about him leaking information given in camera in court was gravely defamatory. Mr Turnbull, the defence counsel, went on to say that the attacks on Mr Greengrass were a disgraceful effort by certain interested parties, who he didn't name, to discredit those trying to help Mr Wright. He said there'd been a despicable smear campaign against Mr Wright, against Mr Turnbull himself and now against Mr Greengrass. And he said this was an attempt to pervert the course of justice. And he said if the British Government wanted to either dissociate itself from the allegations or to instruct its counsel to make it in open court that would be better. He didn't imply though that the Government was involved in the allegations.

GREENGRASS: I've had absolutely no contact with Mr Kinnock, his office or with any other member of Parliament of any political persuasion. Furthermore, I have not revealed or released one jot of the evidence which was heard in Canberra.

REPORTER: Have you any idea then why the allegations are being made?

GREENGRASS: I've no idea. I gather that this was made by a Member of Parliament under privilege in the House and also was the subject of a briefing by Mr Ingham the No 10 press spokesman. And frankly, you know, I don't understand why they've done it. It is totally untrue.

PRESENTER: That was Mr Paul Greengrass. And when Mr Kinnock was asked about him in America Mr Kinnock said he'd never heard of the chap.

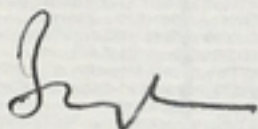
*re  
Wright Case.*

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

I was approached this morning by Richard Hickmet MP about the Wright case just before the 11am Lobby. I did not deal with his point and subsequently spoke to Mr Wicks.

I then asked Mr Maclean in the Whips' Office to intercede on my behalf with the Whips. I made the point that I did not wish to be discourteous to an MP but I could only deal with members of the Government.

Before lunch, Mr Tristan Garel-Jones, of the Whips' Office, informed me that he had explained the position to Mr Hickmet.



BERNARD INGHAM

4 December 1986

F Wright file

IN CONFIDENCE

Dear Arthur ✓ *12/4/86*

We have now further clarified the instructions given to Clerks in the Table Office about the drill to be followed when Questions or Motions are submitted. You alone will be telephoned in all cases, either by Clifford or myself or sometimes (in the interests of speed) by a Clerk from the Table Office using a secure office.

I attach on a separate sheet a list of names which have appeared in Questions and Motions in recent weeks. As agreed, we will be alerting you even when these names re-appear. But you might in due course wish to consider whether any of them are now so firmly in the public domain that their re-appearance, unless in obviously special circumstances, need not trigger the system.

*D.W. Limon*

D.W. LIMON

4th December, 1986