

4/10/86
B.07614

MR WICKS

SECRET

Prime Minister

9

Do you agree the suggestion is that someone (eg Sir A Duff) should tell Sir A. Kershaw that he has been misinformed, but no more?

The Peter Wright Case

N.L.U.

FILE WITH NLW 4.12
FILE WITH NLW

In your minute of 2 December you asked for a note on Sir Anthony Kershaw's point, in his letter of 29 November to Mr Michael Alison, that "It is not true that the Government made no attempt to stop the publication of Harry Chapman Pincher's latest book because they did not at the moment of decision know his sources".

2. Mr Pincher's latest book is "Too Secret Too Long", published in 1984. Sir Anthony Kershaw may, however, have been meaning to refer to Mr Pincher's earlier book "Their Trade is Treachery", published in 1981 and now at the centre of attention in the Wright case in Australia.

3. As to what the Government knew before publication:

"Their Trade is Treachery"

a. The Security Service judged that much of the information in this book could only have come from one or more of those members of the security and intelligence services who had been involved in investigations into the penetration of the intelligence community carried out in the sixties and early seventies. They identified three main possibilities (including Wright) but at the time of publication had no hard evidence on which to base a definite conclusion. Only after publication did they conclude that Wright must have been the main source.

b. No action was taken to stop publication, both because the sources had not been identified and because our only knowledge of the book and its contents had been obtained from a confidential source.

"Too Secret Too Long"

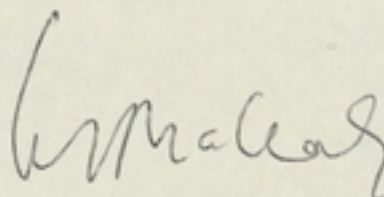
c. By the time of publication it seemed likely that Wright was the main source in this case too. But there was no evidence that could have been presented in Court.

SECRET

d. The publishers refused to release the book to the 'D' Notices Committee. An advance copy was obtained a few days before publication, in conditions which were less sensitive than in b. but still could not provide a basis for legal action.

4. Sir Antony Duff has suggested, and I agree, that there is a case for someone speaking to Sir Anthony Kershaw to tell him that he has been misinformed.

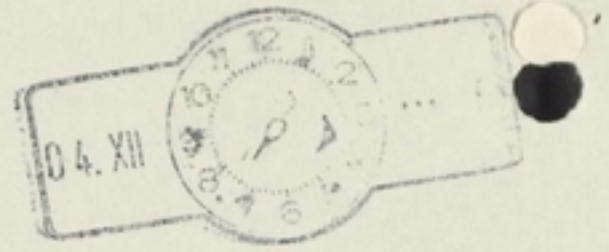
5. I am sending copies of this minute to Mr Galsworthy, Mr Boys Smith and Mr Saunders.



C L G Mallaby

4 December 1986

SECURITY
WRIGHT
PT 4



COMPTON

11

SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET

10

From the Principal Private Secretary

MR WOOLLEY
CABINET OFFICE

THE PETER WRIGHT CASE

I have shown the Prime Minister Mr Mallaby's minute of 4 December about Sir Anthony Kershaw's letter of 29 November to Mr Alison.

The Prime Minister agrees with the suggestion in paragraph 4 of Mr Mallaby's minute that someone (for example Sir Antony Duff) should tell Sir Anthony Kershaw that he has been misinformed. The Prime Minister would not want Sir Anthony to be told any more.

I am sending copies of this minute to Mr Galsworthy (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Mr Boys Smith (Home Office) and Mr Saunders (Law Officers' Department).

N.L.W.

N.L. Wicks

5 December 1986

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

MR MALLABY

THE PETER WRIGHT CASE

I attach a copy of a letter which Sir Anthony Kershaw sent Michael Alison, the Prime Minister's Parliamentary Private Secretary, about Mr Chapman Pincher's book.

Mr Alison has told Sir Anthony that he will draw his letter to the Prime Minister's attention so no reply is needed. But I believe that the Prime Minister would like to have a note on the point which Sir Anthony makes.

I am sending a copy of this minute to Mr Galsworthy (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Mr Boys Smith (Home Office) and to Michael Saunders (Law Officers' Department).

N.L. Wicks
2 December 1986

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CABINET OFFICE

With the compliments of

C. L. G. MALLABY

*Response letter as
requested*

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS
Telephone 01 233 8220

29 Nov 86.

WEST
THE ~~WINE~~ BARN
DIDMARTON
BADMINTON
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
DIDMARTON (045 423) 630

Pme Minutes
I have asked
for a note on
St Anthony's
point. N.C.W
2-12.

Dear Michael,

It is essential that the
P.M. should know the following:-

It is not true that the
Government made no attempt
to stop the publication of Harry
Chapman Pincher's latest book
because they did not at the
moment of decision, know his
sources.

I am advised, on the most

certain authority, that two members of MI5 had seen the manuscript and had concluded that source of it could only have been provided by Peter Wright.

They so advised the then head of MI5.

The Government therefore did know the source of Harry Chapman Pincher's book, before it was published. The P.M. may not have been told, but the fact had been.

It would be very damaging.

2

THE TITHE BARN
DIDMARTON
BADMINTON
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
DIDMARTON (045 423) 630

if a mistake in presentation
were to be made, which
was subsequently found
out. ~~At the~~

I am very sorry that
I must be in Cyprus with
the Select Ctee when the
debate takes place on Wednesday.
Yours ever, Anthony Kershaw.