

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

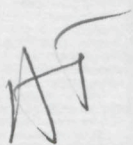
bc. Sir Robin Butler

SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE: WESTLAND

The Chief Whip debriefed me on the meeting of the Committee. They had considered Sir Leon Brittan's letter, but had decided to take no decisions for the time being. The matter has been remitted to the Clerk for further advice which has been asked for in two to three weeks.

Mr. John Wilkinson has now come round to the view that there is no need to pursue this further, and Sir Barney Hayhoe is therefore the only Member on the Government side who is pursuing it. If it had gone to a vote, Mr. Mates could have used his casting vote, but he took the tactical judgement that it was better not to force the issue now. He hopes time will further dull interest in the subject, and that he may eventually bring Sir Barney Hayhoe round.

I commented to the Chief Whip that I hoped Mr. Mates' tactical judgement proved sound; referring the matter to the Clerk for further advice merely gave him one more opportunity to stir things up.



AT

10 May, 1989.



Government Chief Whip

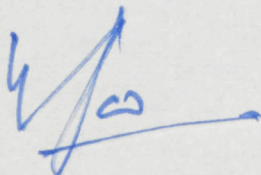
12 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

Mr. Andrew,

This is what Leon is proposing
to write to the Select Committee.

Quite frankly I do not think he
would take kindly to a major 're-write'.
But I could convey suggestions for minor
alterations through David Curran if you really
think it is worth the risk of upsetting him.

Will you let me have your views not
late than this afternoon



Text of LB letter to Defence Select Committee

Thank you etc....

I confirm that I was reported accurately.

[I can confirm that the transcript accurately reports my comments.....
and I stand by the words I used.]

it was not my intention / purpose

I should make it clear that ¹in the interview I did not ^{ro}add to what I had previously said, and stated that this was the case immediately after the contents of the interview were made public.

In particular I would like to draw your attention to my statement of 27/1/86 in the HoC (col. 671) when I said that I had made it clear that officials at the DTI were given authority to release the letter subject to the agreement of No 10. I confirmed this was the case when I stated to the Committee on 31/1/86 (p.127) : "I would particularly stress..... agreement of No 10."

I wd also draw attention to the PM's statement HoC 27/1/86 (col.655) when she said officials of the DTI told the inquiry that they regarded the purpose of this approach to No 10 officials as being to seek the agreement to the disclosure as well as to the method and that they believed they had that agreement.

The PM made it clear that the officials in her office told the inquiry they did not believe they were being asked to give her authority for the disclosure and she concluded that there was a genuine difference in understanding between the officials as to exactly what was being sought and what was being given.

My naming of the officials concerned added nothing fresh as there has been no controversy as to their identity. The committee report itself referred to the officials by name and did not suggest that the names of the officials had ever been in question.

finally I also stand by everything else contained in the speech to the HoC 27/1/86 including the statement that I myself accept full responsibility for the fact and the form of the disclosure.

Yours etc.

Text of LB letter to Defence Select Committee

Thank you etc....

I confirm that I was reported accurately.

[I can confirm that the transcript accurately reports my comments.....
and I stand by the words I used.]

it was not my intention / purpose

I should make it clear that in the interview I did not ^{re}add to what I had previously said, and stated that this was the case immediately after the contents of the interview were made public.

In particular I would like to draw your attention to my statement of 27/1/86 in the HoC (col. 671) when I said that I had made it clear that officials at the DTI were given authority to release the letter subject to the agreement of No 10. I confirmed this was the case when I stated to the Committee on 31/1/86 (p.127) : "I would particularly stress..... agreement of No 10."

I wd also draw attention to the PM's statement HoC 27/1/86 (col 655) when she said officials of the DTI told the inquiry that they regarded the purpose of this approach to No 10 officials as being to seek the agreement to the disclosure as well as to the method and that they believed they had that agreement.

The PM made it clear that the officials in her office told the inquiry they did not believe they were being asked to give her authority for the disclosure and she concluded that there was a genuine difference in understanding between the officials as to exactly what was being sought and what was being given.

My naming of the officials concerned added nothing fresh as there has been no controversy as to their identity. The committee report itself referred to the officials by name and did not suggest that the names of the officials had ever been in question.

finally I also stand by everything else contained in the speech to the HoC 27/1/86 including the statement that I myself accept full responsibility for the fact and the form of the disclosure.

Yours etc.



Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

27:4:89

Dear Andrew,

Here is the latest draft prepared by L.
The bottom has been chopped off but ~~the~~ as far
as I can see & understand the matter it follows the
same lines as the previous draft.

Will you please let me know if back
from return to D. Cuning

ccAT.

Thank you for your letter of 19th April 1989.

X I confirm that the transcript accurately reports the words that I used during the interview for Channel 4, recorded several months before it was broadcast, ~~[and that I stand by these words.]~~

88 I should make it clear, however, that in the interview I did not add anything to the substance of what I had previously said about this matter, and I stated that this was the case immediately after the contents of the interview were made public.

I would, in particular, draw the Committee's attention to what I said in the House on 27th January 1986 (Column 671) when I said that I made it clear to my officials at the Department of Trade and Industry that I was giving authority for the disclosure of the letter, subject to the agreement of No 10.

I confirmed this when I said to the Committee on 30th January 1986 (at page 127): "I would particularly stress that it all had to be subject to the agreement of No 10".

I would also draw attention to the Prime Minister's statement in the House on 27th January 1986, in which she said (at Column 655) that officials of the Department of Trade and Industry told the enquiry that they regarded the purpose of their approach to No 10 officials as being to seek agreement to the disclosure as well as to the method, and that they believed that they had that agreement. The Prime Minister of course also made it clear that the officials in her office told the enquiry that they did not believe that they were being asked to give her authority for the disclosure, and she concluded that there was a genuine difference in understanding between officials as to exactly what was being sought and what was being given.

My naming of the officials concerned in the interview added nothing fresh, as there has been no controversy about their identity. The Committee's report itself, for example, referred to the officials by name and did not suggest that in all the controversy surrounding these matters, the names of the officials concerned had ever been in question.

Y Finally, I would add that I of course ~~[also]~~ stand by everything else contained in my speech in the House on 27th January 1986, including the statement that I myself accept full responsibility for the fact and