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NBPM

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & SCIENCE

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The Permanent Secretary
D.J.S. Hancock

Sir Brian Cubbon KCB
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's
LONDON SW1H 9AT

17 November 1983

Dear Brian,

LEAKS AND SCOTLAND YARD

I refer to Robert Armstrong's letter to you of 16 November.

2. There is a further aspect of this affair which I think might, with advantage, be called to the Commissioner's attention. The effect of the press briefing given by Scotland Yard last week was to give the education press the impression that the matter under consideration by the Director of Public Prosecutions concerned an attempt by an Inspector of Schools to leak the HMI report about the effects of local authority expenditure policies on the education service in England during 1982. In fact no such document existed at the time of the incident. It was duly published in July.
3. These reports were potentially embarrassing to my Secretary of State because, during the Election campaign, Mr Kinnock accused him of suppressing that HMI report. We therefore found it necessary to issue a denial which we did by a Press Notice on Friday - copy attached.
4. I thought that this supportive detail help you to convince the Commissioner of the importance of ensuring that Scotland Yard's press briefing is well considered.

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5. I am copying this letter to Robert Armstrong, Clive Whitmore
and Robin Butler.

*Yours,
David.*

D J S HANCOCK



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PRESS NOTICE

389/83

11 NOVEMBER 1983

STATEMENT

Some reports in today's newspapers state that a draft of HM Inspectorate's report on the Effects of Local Authorities' Expenditure Policies on the Education Service in 1982 was sent to The Guardian in May. That is not correct. As has been stated previously, HMI's report on the effects of expenditure policies was not completed until Mid-July and it has no connection with any other incident that may be under investigation.

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Security
Info leaked
by Guardian
or wife

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F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
Swt.