

Ref. A084/90

MR BUTLER

Dunlop, MB

The Prime Minister will remember the leak to the Guardian last autumn of a minute from the Secretary of State for Defence to her about the date and other arrangements for the arrival of cruise missiles at Greenham Common.

2. It was decided to seek to recover the leaked document from the Guardian, and court proceedings were instituted for this purpose. The High Court found in favour of the Crown, and that decision was upheld by the Court of Appeal. The Guardian accordingly returned the document, in the form in which they had received it.

3. It was clear that the document recovered had been copied from a copy of the original sent to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Preliminary investigations by a Cabinet Office investigator indicated that the leak must have come either from the Secretary of State's Private Office or from the Defence Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and probably the former. The investigation was then put in the hands of the police. Further inquiries narrowed the range of suspects, and a confession has now been obtained. The document was leaked to the Guardian by Miss Sarah Tisdall, a young Clerical Officer in the Secretary of State's Private Office. Following her confession she has been suspended, and the Director of Public Prosecutions has decided to prosecute her.

4. It is clearly a relief that the investigation has been able to track down the source of this leak. After the headline in yesterday's Sunday Telegraph it is a matter of particular relief to me that the leak proves not to have come from the Cabinet Office.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

9 January 1984

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PIG 84



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Thank you for your minute of 9 January (A084/90) about the leak to the Guardian of a minute from the Secretary of State for Defence about the date and other arrangements for the arrival of Cruise missiles on Greenham Common. The Prime Minister has noted the contents of your minute.

LEE BUTLER

10 January, 1984

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