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Of yours?

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

5 March, 1984

Dear Julian,

Thank you for your letter of 29 February about our recent discussion.

I note that you will be telling those interested that you have put your case both to me and to two Foreign Secretaries. I was interested to hear it myself and it certainly provides some food for thought.

Lawson

Raymond

The Rt. Hon. Julian Amery, M.P.

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FROM: THE RT. HON. JULIAN AMERY, M.P.

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Secret

29th February, 1984.

Dear Margaret,

I am grateful to you for giving me the chance to discuss the political side of Special Operations with you the other day (February 21st).

As I said then the para-military side - SBS and SAS seems to be well looked after. My anxiety remains about the political side.

I do not think we need anything very elaborate at this stage. A small headquarters designed (a) to support any team we may send to existing trouble spots and (b) to recointre potential trouble spots and look out for individuals who might be useful if the potential becomes actual. To start with this should probably be under the overall control of C but a distinct organisation to avoid Operations compromising Intelligence.

I would not be too concerned about the danger of investigative journalism. Our adversaries certainly make no secret of their support for what they regard as freedom fighters; nor for that matter do the Americans, French or Israelis.

I have bitter memories of how ill-prepared we were for this kind of thing when war broke out in 1939. I don't think world was is likely now but we are already far more at war with the Soviets in the subversive sphere than we ever were with Hitler until he invaded Poland.

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As you may recall, I was originally asked to raise all this with you by a small group of friends with experience of Special Operations. I would propose to tell them that I am happy about what is being done on the para-military - SAS, SBS - side but that I remain concerned about the weakness of our capability on the "political" side. I would, however, add that I have been given the opportunity to put the case to two Foreign Secretaries and to you personally and that I am satisfied that our views have been taken on board at the highest level. As the subject is essentially secret I would not need to go beyond that.

Yes

Julian

Julian Amery

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP

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