



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

25 October, 1984.

At the dinner which the Prime Minister gave for the British Council on Monday, there was a reference to Mr. Whitty, the British Council officer assassinated in Athens earlier in the year; and the Prime Minister asked about his family.

The Prime Minister was told that the question of paying the boarding school fees for Mr. Whitty's four sons was under consideration by the Treasury; and the Director General of the British Council has subsequently written to her saying that he understood that the Treasury had referred the question for legal advice some weeks ago.

The Prime Minister said that she would find out the position, and I should be grateful if you could provide advice about the present position in the form of a draft letter which I might send to Sir John Burgh.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Len Appleyard (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

E. E. R. BUTLER

Richard Broadbent, Esq.,
Chief Secretary's Office,
HM Treasury.

RB



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Robin Butler Esq
Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street
London SW1

1 November 1984

Dear Robin

THE LATE KENNETH WHITTY

You wrote to me on 25 October to ask about the compensation for the late Kenneth Whitty, the British Council official who was assassinated in Athens earlier this year.

2 Mr Whitty left a widow and four sons, three of whom are at boarding school. These dependants are compensated under the terms of the British Council scheme which are the same as those of the civil service. The Treasury has been responsible for calculating the award.

3

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4 Although Mr Whitty died abroad, the scheme provides that his dependants should be put on the same basis as if the crime had occurred in the UK. They are therefore entitled to any additional compensation which would have been awarded if the case had been dealt with under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. In making an award, the Board take into account benefits payable under the occupational scheme and Social Security benefits. Here again the calculation is quite complex, and our legal advisers thought it best to take the advice of Counsel. I am glad to say however that the advice has now been received, and the Treasury will be recommending a further award of In giving his advice, Counsel took into consideration the future school needs of the children, including the loss of Boarding School Allowances which was the point which earlier was causing concern.

now increased
to £50,000

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5

6

7 Although money can never really compensate for a tragedy of this kind, I think it fair to say that the compensation available under the scheme should ensure that Mrs Whitty is not put to financial difficulty in educating her sons as had been intended.

8 I enclose a draft of a letter you might send to Sir John Burgh reporting these latest developments.

9 I am copying this letter to Len Appleyard (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

Yours sincerely
Richard Broadbent

R J BROADBENT
Private Secretary

DRAFT LETTER FROM: PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY NO 10

TO: SIR JOHN BURGH

THE LATE KENNETH WHITTY

At the dinner which the Prime Minister gave for the British Council there was a reference to the late Mr Kenneth Whitty who was assassinated in Athens earlier this year. As you mentioned in your subsequent letter, the Treasury had referred some aspects of the question to Counsel for advice.

2 I understand that Counsel has now given his opinion on the level of compensation which would have been payable under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, and the Treasury intend to recommend a further award of [] in addition to the benefits payable under the occupational scheme and from Social Security. In giving his advice, Counsel took into consideration the future schooling needs of the children, including the loss of Boarding School Allowance which was the matter which had earlier caused concern.

3 [Although money can never really compensate for a tragedy of this kind, I hope it is fair to say that this compensation should ensure that Mrs Whitty is not put to financial difficulty in educating her sons as had been intended.]

4 The Treasury will shortly be writing direct to the British Council giving the details and setting out a number of other points.

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FILE

57
cc: PG

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 July, 1984

THE LATE KENNETH WHITTY

Thank you for your letter of 20 July. The Prime Minister was grateful to learn that the review for which she has asked has been set in hand

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(C.D. Powell)

P.F. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



gc PC

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 July, 1984

mf

Prime Minister

*CDP
20/7*

Dear Charles,

The Late Kenneth Whitty

Thank you for your letter of 9 July. The review for which the Prime Minister asked has been set in hand.

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Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

PC



Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1

Spoken to
Miss Ward.
She will get the
Chief Whip to
send a

18 July 1984

Holding a
non-committed
reply. CDJ
- 10/7.

Dear Mr Powell,

You may recall that I wrote to you on
13 June about the late Kenneth Whitty.
The Chief Whip would be grateful if
you could let him know whether any
progress has been made on this case -
he is being pressed by the family's
solicitors.

Yours sincerely
Alison Ward

Alison Ward

Charles Powell Esq
10 Downing Street