

D.R.

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PRIME MINISTER

BRIGHTON BOMB

As you know, Mr. John Hodson, Deputy Chief Constable of Hampshire, was asked to carry out an Inquiry into security at the Grand Hotel, Brighton. He has interviewed and taken statements from most people concerned, including myself. I attach a copy of my statement.

7.11.84

He has said that he does not feel it necessary to trouble you, unless there were any points you wanted to put to him. Is there anything which you would like to say?

H.R.B.

No. inf.

21 November 1984



FILE

69

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

22 November, 1984

You told me that you did not think it necessary to trouble the Prime Minister for an interview in connection with your Inquiry into security at the Grand Hotel Brighton unless she had any points which she wanted to make to you. I have consulted the Prime Minister and have shown her the statement which I made. She has confirmed that she does not feel it necessary herself to put any points to you.

J.C. Hoddinnott, Esq.

A handwritten signature in the bottom right corner of the page.



File N & MAGE

CF

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

7 November, 1984

SECURITY AT THE GRAND HOTEL, BRIGHTON

I attach a statement on the lines for which you asked. Please let me know if there are any further points which you would like me to cover.

RB

J. Hoddinnott, Esq.

SECURITY AT THE GRAND HOTEL, BRIGHTON

STATEMENT BY MR. F.E.R. BUTLER

I am Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister and in that capacity I am the senior civil servant in her office at 10 Downing Street. I advise her on issues affecting her security as Prime Minister, relying on the expertise of her Senior Protection Officer who conveys the views of the police more generally.

My role at the Conservative Party Conference was to attend for the purpose of conducting with the Prime Minister such official (as opposed to party political) business as came up during that week, and to check that her speech to the Conservative Party Conference as Party Leader was consistent in all respects with her position as Head of the Government.

The security arrangements for the Prime Minister's First Floor Suite at the Grand Hotel appeared to me to be similar to those both at the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool and at the last Conference at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, with the exception that the police on guard at the entrance to the corridor leading to the Prime Minister's suite were operating a more rigorous check on identities. By this I mean that they required a person gaining access to that corridor to be identified by somebody else whom they already knew or to show a pass to indicate that they belonged to the Prime Minister's staff.

The security arrangements at Brighton appeared to me comparable with those at other events attended by the Prime Minister. Were they adequate? A balance has always to be struck between security, the Prime Minister's need to be

seen and meet people, the rights of other members of the public to move freely and the general standard of what is acceptable by way of security arrangements in this country. It is certainly possible to think of several ways in which the Prime Minister was vulnerable to an assassination attempt at Brighton which the security arrangements would not have been adequate to prevent (in addition to the one which actually occurred). In the aftermath of the Brighton bomb, it may well be that the balance will need to be struck at a different point, and more rigorous security arrangements will need to be made; but it does not follow that these would have been acceptable before the Brighton explosion occurred.

Division au N° 10.

RSA au Larry Catman.

How effective was the Security
arrangement for the Fire Floor at
P.M. Smith at The Guard?

General comment on the
arrangement at Brighton
compared with other seen at
throughout the country.

MR. J. HODDINOTT, M.A.
Cp. Police HEADQUARTERS.
SUSSEX POLICE FORCE.
MALLING HOUSE,
LEWES.
SUSSEX.

From: J.C. Hoddinott, MA, Deputy Chief Constable

PP's?

HAMPSHIRE Constabulary

HEADQUARTERS WINCHESTER 68133

S022 5DB

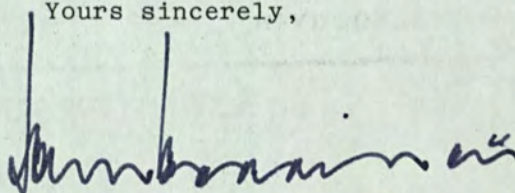
12th November, 1984

Dear Mr Butler,

Thank you for your letter dated 7th November, 1984, and enclosed statement concerning the security at the Grand Hotel, Brighton.

Your assistance is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Deputy Chief Constable

Mr R. Butler,
Principal Private Secretary,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON.

Security Oct 84

Brighton Blvd

15 NOV 1984

