

SECRET AND PERSONAL



10 DOWNING STREET

StP-2751

CABINET OFFICE	
A	10091
9 DEC 1985	
FILING INSTRUCTION	
FILE No

From the Principal Private Secretary

cc - ~~Mr Darie~~

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

SUBVERSION IN PUBLIC LIFE

The Prime Minister was grateful for your minute Ref: A085/3179 of 6 December in which you report on the work of the group of Permanent Secretaries into the changing nature of the subversive threat, both within the Civil Service and more generally.

The Prime Minister agrees that you should proceed with the management initiatives listed in paragraphs 10 and 11 of your minute. She also thinks that it would be worthwhile for your group to make a similar assessment of the current threat of subversion in local government, education and the National Health Service.

The Prime Minister believes that one further action to counter the subversive threat in the Civil Service would be for management to be very ready to sack subversive trouble-makers if they showed any cause under the Civil Service rules.

You should also know that the Prime Minister is somewhat disquieted to learn from paragraph 7 of your minute that there are some, albeit very few, subversives in the Civil Service above the rank of Higher Executive Officer.

N.L.W.

N L WICKS

9 December 1985

SECRET AND PERSONAL

cc - Mr. Davis
Mr. Barker

70 WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AS

01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. A085/3206

11 December 1985

Subversion in Public Life

You saw a copy of my submission of 6 December to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister has agreed that we should proceed with the management initiative set out in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the minute, and with the further assessments described in paragraph 12. I should be grateful if you could provide me with a speaking note for the first of these purposes.

She has remarked that she thinks that Civil Service managers should be very ready to apply disciplinary sanctions to subversive troublemakers, where their conduct justifies it.

The Prime Minister was somewhat disquieted to learn from paragraph 7 of my minute that there were even a very few subversives in the Civil Service above the rank of Higher Executive Officer. I should be glad if you could let me know whether there is any more information that we can give the Prime Minister about the number and distribution of subversive troublemakers at these levels.

I am sending copies of this letter to all those who attended my meeting on 27 November.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

M J A Partridge Esq CB