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MR H TAYLOR

Rt Hon Peter Morrison MP

Could you please confirm that the level of Mr Morrison's protection is being reassessed in the light of his appointment as the Prime Minister's PPS. I believe that his name was on one of the earlier lists and so he is probably being reassessed as part of the present exercise; but he should be looked at again in any case on the grounds of his appointment.

2. Separately from the above, Mr Morrison mentioned to me that the Cheshire Police have been less energetic in looking after him than either the Metropolitan Police or the Police in Islay. Could you ask the Special Branch to put a word in the right ear in the Cheshire Constabulary. I think that an early call on Mr Morrison to discuss his protection in Cheshire would be appreciated.

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ROBIN BUTLER

7 August 1990

CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTE FOR RECORD

Mr Peter Morrison MP

Sir Robin Butler held a meeting with Andrew Turnbull and Murdo Maclean on Tuesday 22 May.

2. Mr Maclean explained that Andrew Roth, author of "Parliamentary Profiles", had sent to Mr Morrison the draft entry he proposed to include in the next edition. This included a statement that "stories of a sex scandal circulated in his patch and in Fleet Street but were never corroborated-October/November 1986". Mr Morrison had sought the advice of his lawyers who had told him that he would "probably have a case" if Mr Roth published this statement. He had then sought the advice of Mr Wakeham, who had in turn suggested that he should consult Mr Maclean

3. Sir Robin Butler said that thought that Mr Roth should be approached informally, before the new edition of "Parliamentary Profiles" went to press. The approach might appropriately come from the Deputy Chief Whip, Mr Garel-Jones. Mr Garel-Jones might say that the statement was damaging to Mr Morrison's reputation, and that, if it were to be published, Mr Morrison would certainly want to consider his position. (It might be pointed out, informally, that although these rumours had circulated previously, no word had ever been published in the press, which suggested that there were no facts to back them up.) It would not be wise to say that Mr Morrison would definitely sue if the allegations were published; he would need to consult the Attorney General before doing so, and such legal action was difficult and painful.

DPA22 May 1990

MISS S C PHIPPARD

Sir Robin Butler

Andrew Turnbull and/or Muro Maclean would like to come in for a word about Mr Peter Morrison.

Andrew Roth, author of 'Parliamentary Profiles' plans to include in his entry on Mr Morrison

"stories of a sex scandal circulated in his patch and in Fleet Street but were never corroborated - Oct/Nov 1986".

Mr Morrison sought the advice of Mr Wakeman, who sent him to Muro. The Chief Whip asked Muro to speak to you. Muro knows Andrew Roth, and would be prepared to speak to him himself or to ask Mr Carel-Jones to do so.

Mr Morrison's lawyers advise him that he would "probably have a case" if Mr Roth publishes.

Mr Maclean asked to see you. Mr Turnbull suggested that he should come too, or that you might prefer to see him alone (he would then give Mr Maclean instructions as appropriate). At the moment, we have them

both coming - Andrew would like to know before 9am tomorrow if this should be changed.

DPA

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