

secretary should not have confirmed that there was a file in the first place. At that time I kept a daily log book in which I would have recorded my discussion with the press. I do not know where my log book may be now.

14. I do recall that a lot of press were sniffing around about Cyril Smith at the time. We received more than one call but I cannot recall which papers made enquiries. I recall that the bulk of the calls were from Fleet Street, but we did receive calls from regional press. We had a lot of calls from the Press Association which provided information to the regional press. There was a flurry over a couple of days and then the story 'died a death'. I do not recall the Rochdale Alternative Paper publishing an article at the time. We only had the Fleet Street press delivered to the office.
15. It would only have been me that would have spoken to the press. No one else in the office would have done. I cannot remember other occasions (other than when Frances answered the phone) when someone would have taken calls when I was not there. Sir Thomas did have some contact with the Fleet Street press but I went with him to any meetings. I do not recall Cyril Smith being talked of during any such meeting.
16. I have been shown a copy of file notes obtained by the Inquiry from the Security Service (INQ000975_3, INQ000975_4, INQ000975_5 and INQ000975_6).
17. The relevant section from the first file note dated 24 April 1979 (INQ000975_1) is as follows:

"After consultations, the DPP's press representative had untruthfully told Bartlett that they had no record of this case."
18. My recollection is that I gave the standard line in response to the enquiry from the press. I cannot remember speaking to RAP nor receiving any written request from them. I do not therefore know why Sir Thomas would have told the Legal Advisor at the Security Service (INQ000975_1) that I had "untruthfully told" the journalist that the DPP's office had no record of this case.
19. In relation to the second file note of 24 April 1979 (INQ000975_4), the relevant sections are as follows:

"1. The DPP telephoned me again late this morning to say that they now had an enquiry about the 1970 investigation from the Daily Express who said that they had received firm information. They had been told that the DPP had no record of this case.

2. The DPP explained the suspicions that Stanley Parr might be the source. David Bartlett, in speaking to the Press Officer and attempting to persuade her to give information, had said "You know who my source is" and had then made a reference to an ex Chief Constable. The DPP added that Parr had been the Deputy Chief Constable of the force then involved in the investigation."
20. I do not specifically recall receiving a call from the Daily Express about Cyril Smith. I do not remember me or anyone else telling the Daily Express that the DPP had no record