

NOTE FOR FILE
File Reference Number

1. Sir Thomas Hetherington, the Director of Public Prosecutions, telephoned me today to say that a man named David BARTLETT, representing RAP in Lancashire, had telephoned about a gross indecency case involving Cyril SMITH and boys at an hotel in Rochdale, which an unnamed senior police officer had asserted had been sent to the DPP in 1970. After consultations, the DPP's press representative had untruthfully told BARTLETT that they had no record of this case. In fact their file closely accorded with the details given by BARTLETT. Hetherington said that he believed I had on one occasion asked him, when he was with the Law Officers' Department, whether they had any record. He had not then been aware of this case as it had not been submitted to the Law Officers. He said he believed that RAP stood for the Rochdale Alternative Press. There was some suggestion, but he did not elaborate, that BARTLETT's source might be Stanley Parr, the Chief Constable. (However, he noted from the file that one of the senior police officers who had dealt with the case was a man named Day, who was now under investigation on the DPP's instruction in connexion with various fiddles in the Lancashire Police Force. The other senior police officer involved, named Leach, had now left the police.)

2. I told Hetherington that there had been a scandal involving a South African diplomat, some years ago in one of the newspapers, I thought the Guardian, and a homosexual youth named Name Redacted in which it had been suggested that the South Africans were trying to obtain compromising information about political figures. I thought there was an innuendo at the time that Cyril SMITH was involved. The Metropolitan Police had investigated this incident.

Signature, Name, Legal Adviser

24 April 1979