

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

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The DPP telephoned me again late this morning to say that they had 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.

Signature, Name, Legal Adviser

24 April 1979

Officer's
Signature

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1. I telephoned the Director this morning and told him of the publicity in 1976. I said it was conceivable that he might have had a police report about Andre THORNE but I did not think it was very likely.

2. He said that they had had further questions from David BARTLETT of RAP. They had not admitted receiving any papers but had said the alleged offence would have been reportable if the Chief Constable had judged that a prima facie case was made out. BARTLETT told them that he had been in touch with Sir Norman Skelhorn, who had denied any knowledge of the case. They had also been in touch with Williams, the Press Officer for the Lancashire Constabulary, who had refused to comment. The Director said that his Press Officer, Eleanor Phillips, had been told in confidence by another press representative that the story was being fermented by a Lancashire Inspector who was disgruntled that no action had been taken. Interest in it was increasing in Fleet Street.

Signature, Name, Legal Adviser

Officer's Signature

26 April 1979