

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL



70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. DPA

13 January 1986

Thank you for your letter of 6 January about Peter Morrison MP. I do indeed remember what passed in November 1983.

I have made sure that the Prime Minister is aware that there is a potential problem. If you pick up any further evidence or rumours, I should be very glad to have them.

The Rt Hon Sir Antony Duff GCMG CVO DSO DSC

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CABINET OFFICE

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

Sir Robin Butler KCB CVO

Ref.

DPA

2 February 1988

Dear Patrick,

You will be aware of previous correspondence between your predecessor and mine about Peter Morrison MP.

Last year there was a proposal that, as Minister of State, Department of Energy, he should make a visit to Moscow. Since the rumours about Mr Morrison were likely to have reached the ears of the Russians, and it was thought possible that an attempt would be mounted to compromise him, precautions were prepared by which he should stay overnight at the Embassy, be accompanied at all times when out of the Embassy, and avoid attempts to offer him excessive hospitality. However, in the end it was decided that it would be simpler on all grounds if Mr Parkinson carried out the visit, and so Mr Morrison did not go.

There are now plans being drawn up for Mr Morrison to make an extensive series of visits in the Far East in late September/early October of this year, primarily to promote the interests of the UK Offshore Supplies Industry. It is at present proposed that this tour should include two nights in the Republic of China. Mr Morrison would stay in Beijing, and precautions like those prepared for the visit to Moscow could be put in place.

I am inclined to think that, given such precautions and Mr Morrison's acceptance of them, he could be advised to undertake the trip, provided that our Ambassador in Beijing was also discreetly warned of the risk that attempts might be made to exploit the earlier rumours. But before giving advice on those lines, I should be grateful for the views of you and of 'C', to whom I am copying this letter. I am also sending a copy to Patrick Wright.

Yours ever,

DPA

Patrick Walker Esq