file

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

cc Mr Fountain

From the Private Secretary

MR WOOLLEY
CABINET OFFICE

Thank you for your minute of 31 December.

It is inconceivable that anyone in No.10 would write in the manner of the correspondent with the Borough of Brent. Anyway, we should probably manage to get the name of the Security Service right. We do come across similar cases of forgery from time to time, most of them a good deal more plausible than this one.

The circled crest at the top of the note is of some interest. We use no such crests on any of our current writing paper, cards or note sheets. No.10 used to use a circled crest on our writing paper, but the words "Prime Minister" were at the bottom rather than the top. The only similar crest I have been able to unearth (and I haven't done extensive research) is on the "thank you" cards we stopped using some years ago (example enclosed). If this was the source, someone must have done a scissor and paste job though it is hard to confirm this from the photocopy attached to the Brent letter.

Our normal response to these cases is to say that the letter (note in this case) was not sent from this office, we are sorry the person concerned has been troubled and we are grateful to them for informing us. I think it would be best not to suggest that our writing paper sometimes falls into the wrong hands: there is no evidence that it did so on this occasion.

Mark Addison

31 December 1986

Ref. A086/3586

MR BEARPARK

29/12

I attach a copy of a letter Sir Robert Armstrong has received from the Director of Law and Administration at the London Borough of Brent complaining about the receipt of an abusive letter written on No 10 note paper (the photo copy looks as it it is in fact written on some sort of compliment slip rather than on note paper as such). example att.

2. Unless you have any reason to believe that a member of the No 10 staff was responsible for writing to the London Borough of Brent in this way (the style is a touch more abrasive than I associate with the Private Office), I would propose to suggest to Sir Robert Armstrong a reply along the lines that while every effort is made to ensure that official note paper is kept secure and used only by those entitled to do so, in view of the volume of correspondence handled by No 10, it is regrettably inevitable that on occasion the odd sheet falls into unauthorised hands. But it may be that there have been similar cases in the past, in which event perhaps you could advise me it there is a standard line to take.

Trevor Woolley

T A WOOLLEY

31 December 1986

London Borough of Brent

STEPHEN R. FORSTER LLB, *Director*

Department of Law and Administration

Brent Town Hall,
Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex
HA9 9EZ
Tel: 01-904 1244 Ext. 7112
Direct Line No. 908 7112
This matter is being dealt with by

Mr S R Forster

Your Ref:

My Ref: LA/SRF/OP

29th December 1986

Sir Robert Armstrong, GCB, CVO
Sec to the Cabinet & Head of the Home Civil Service
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2AS

Dear Sir Robert,

I enclose a photostat of an example of the racist abuse my Authority has been receiving as a result of recent press reporting. This one is a little different from the rest in that it appears to be written on the Prime Minster's official note paper. Doubtless you will share my concern at this use of the note paper.

Yours sincerely,

Director of Law & Administration

Enc

Get the MS

Hey, you stinking
Cow - Go back to
your own County
or perhaps they
would kill you
as you did

You Dirty Stinking
Bitch - who do
you think you
are Hope you
get AIDS

Perhaps you already have it

X