

1. MR. BUTLER
2. PRIME MINISTER

Mr. David Hart

I have suggested
Some amendments to the letter
to Mr. Walker, but I think that
in any case you may like to
discuss.

FERB

cc. Mr. Atkin
Mr. Sherbourne
Mr. Turnbull

(i) Letter from Peter Walker

Peter Walker has written the attached personal letter to you about David Hart to which I have drafted a reply for you to sign. Because nothing these days is safe from leaks, I have had to make sure that it could appear in a newspaper without causing undue embarrassment.

I accept Peter Walker's account of events and believe his complaints about David Hart are justified. Though DH has on occasions provided you with useful intelligence he has recently been pursuing his own ends at the expense of those of the Government. For example, while professing total loyalty to you, he has not shrunk from denigrating Peter Walker's activities even though the latter was carrying out the line agreed with you and Ministers. DH has his own views on how the coal strike should end and has been pursuing his cause even when it conflicted with the interests of yourself and Peter Walker. And in so doing he has exploited his No. 10 connection.

I think you need to acknowledge most of Peter Walker's complaints. There is a danger that if PW finds himself threatened by DH he will unhesitatingly use DH against you to protect his own position. Our gratitude to DH for his pieces of intelligence does not extend to protecting him against his own folly.

(ii) How to deal with David Hart

We know that DH has been playing up his No. 10 connection to the point of embarrassing the Government in the recent TUC/NCB negotiations. We also know that he has tried to involve himself in the "Star Wars" issue in an attempt to act as a

.../

Mr. David Hart cont

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'go-between' between you and the US administration. And who knows on what other sensitive subject (eg. Northern Ireland?!) he will turn to next.

So long as he feels he can telephone me regularly on whatever issue, so long will there be risk of grave embarrassment to you. I am also worried about Peter Walker's mention of a book by DH.

I think therefore we must consider how we sever the link with DH in a way which is clear to him but does not unduly offend him. I think this is something we need to talk about because I only want to act in accordance with your own interests and wishes.

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

27.2.85



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Personal and Confidential

28th February, 1985

Thank you for your letter of 27th February about Mr. David Hart. I note your account of events and I am therefore deeply concerned by what you say.

Mr. Hart has no status at No. 10 and holds no position here, formal or informal, official or unofficial. Any contact he makes with members of my staff here is on his own initiative and without solicitation.

As you know, Mr. Hart has at times provided useful and accurate information. *But*
On no occasion did I or anyone else at No. 10 authorise Mr. Hart to pass instructions to Mr. MacGregor. Indeed, Mr. Hart was specifically told in the clearest terms that he was not to act in any way as a channel of communication to the Coal Board and he can have been in no doubt about this. I have insisted at all times that the correct channel of communication between Ministers and the Board was through you.

[I have to say, however, that it is a sad reflection on the management 'resources' of the Board that people like Mr. Hart could come to establish themselves so prominently in its affairs.]

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Your letter ~~therefore~~ highlights certain problems ^{about the support available to Mr. McGregor} which at some stage we will have to discuss together. ~~3~~

I am gravely concerned that Mr. Hart may be producing an "inside story" of the coal strike. I agree with you that this is likely to be inaccurate and I shall certainly see that Mr. Hart is aware of my view that this would be an inexcusable breach of confidence

The Rt. Hon. Peter Walker, MBE MP