

RESTRICTED

CABINET OFFICE

THIS FILE MUST NOT GO OUTSIDE THE CABINET OFFICE

5/41

CLOSED

PART NUMBER

The Macmillan Papers

FILE BEGINS 4 August 1988 ENDS 30.1.91

FILE No. 5/41

PART NUMBER

INDEX HEADINGS

CABINET OFFICE
RECORDS

PUBLIC RECORDS
ACTS 1958-1967

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS
OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

1991

REFERRED TO	DATE	REFERRED TO	DATE	REFERRED TO	DATE
<p>CLOSED 1991</p> <p>DR 1991</p> <p>2nd</p> <p>(AB 103/782)</p>					

RESTRICTED

File continues on HR 10/5

FOLIO REGISTER — FILE No. 5/4

FOLIO	DATE	CODE REF.	FOLIO	DATE	CODE REF.	FOLIO	DATE	CODE REF.
						19	30.1.91	{ H091/69 A1139
1	4.8.88	{ H0336 A8505	10	18.7.89	A089/1924			
2	12.8.88	Time xx.	11	25.7.89	A8434			
3	2.9.88	{ H0368 A9055	12	28.7.89	H089/332			
4	6.9.88	A088/2598	13	31.7.89	A089/2088			
5	27.9.88	A 9719	14	15.1.90	A495			
6	29.9.88	A088/2842	15	17.1.90	{ A54 H090/10			
7	29.9.88	{ H0397 A9854	16	18.1.90	A090/164			
8	3.10.88	A088/2864	17	26.6.90	{ H090/220 A7422			
9	12.7.89	A089/303	18	28.6.90	xch of ms notes.			

SIR ROBIN BUTLER

THE COWGILL REPORT

Many thanks. I'm
Content with x1.
Pl. type draft for my sig.
FERB
30.1

CABINET OFFICE
A 1139 ✓
30 JAN 1991
MAILING INSTRUCTIONS

HO91/69 ✓

82
19

When the Cowgill Enquiry report into the repatriation of the Cossacks and the Yugoslavs in 1945 was published in October 1990 an article in The Times said that "Harold Macmillan's attempt to obtain documents from Sir Robert Armstrong.....failed". I made enquiries into this as, to the best of my knowledge, such documents as could be traced were made available to the former Prime Minister following his approach to the Secretary of the Cabinet in 1980.

Brigadier Cowgill, whom I consulted first, pointed out that in Chapter 19 of his report the 1980 correspondence was published in full. The Times' wording was not used, but it was nevertheless true to say that what we produced in 1980 did not provide the then Mr Macmillan with the information he needed to enable him to defend himself against Tolstoy and others.

I made enquiries in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in November 1990 and have just received a reply. It is not possible now to discover exactly how the request was handled in the MoD when they received it in 1980 because the files have been destroyed following a routine review of such material. From the evidence provided by our end of the correspondence however and the fact that the Army Historical Branch of the MoD, whose files are still extant, was not involved, it would appear that the enquiry was handled in both departments by the Records rather than the Historical Sections and that the search did not go very much wider than the identification where possible of the actual documents sought.

This is not surprising. The request from Mr Macmillan said only that he wanted the documents for his biographer to use in due course; he did not, he said, intend to take part in public discussion. Unfortunately he allowed this intention to be over-ridden in the light of further allegations by Mr Tolstoy. He could hardly have done otherwise since silence would have been construed as evasion and thus guilt.

So it is only with hindsight that our "failure" to produce more information can be seen. All those involved at the time appear to have done their best to locate the relevant papers. Given the terms in which the request was made it is not really surprising that Departments did not put in hand the research which Brigadier Cowgill and his colleagues have conducted over a four year period.

I thought originally that we might be able to write to the present Lord Stockton rebutting the allegation of failure on our part made by The Times. But the moment for that is, I believe, now past and, as we have nothing very helpful to say, there would seem little point. You might however wish to write briefly to Brigadier Cowgill who raised the topic when he saw you in November last. I attach a draft for consideration.

On a separate but related matter we were going to 'remind' Lord Stockton about his undertaking to let us have a complete print-out of the Macmillan papers at Birchgrove towards the end of last year. However, I note from Alistair Horne's letter to you of 15 January 1990 that the cataloguing is expected to take until June 1991. If you agree I will let you have a draft letter enquiring about progress nearer the middle of the year.

Pat Andrews

MISS P M ANDREWS
Historical Section
30 January 1991

BF 1.10.90



CABINET OFFICE
Historical Section

With compliments

SIR ROBIN BUTLER

I thought the two years had probably started when Lord Stockton first referred to the employment of the Archivist in his letter of 27.9.88. However, even if it had, the two years is not quite up. Shall we 'close' towards the end of the year if nothing is heard before that?

Pat Andrews

Hepburn House, Marsham Street, London SW1P 4HW 28/6
Telephone 071-217 6050

Pat Andrews
Thank you.
Agreed
PAB

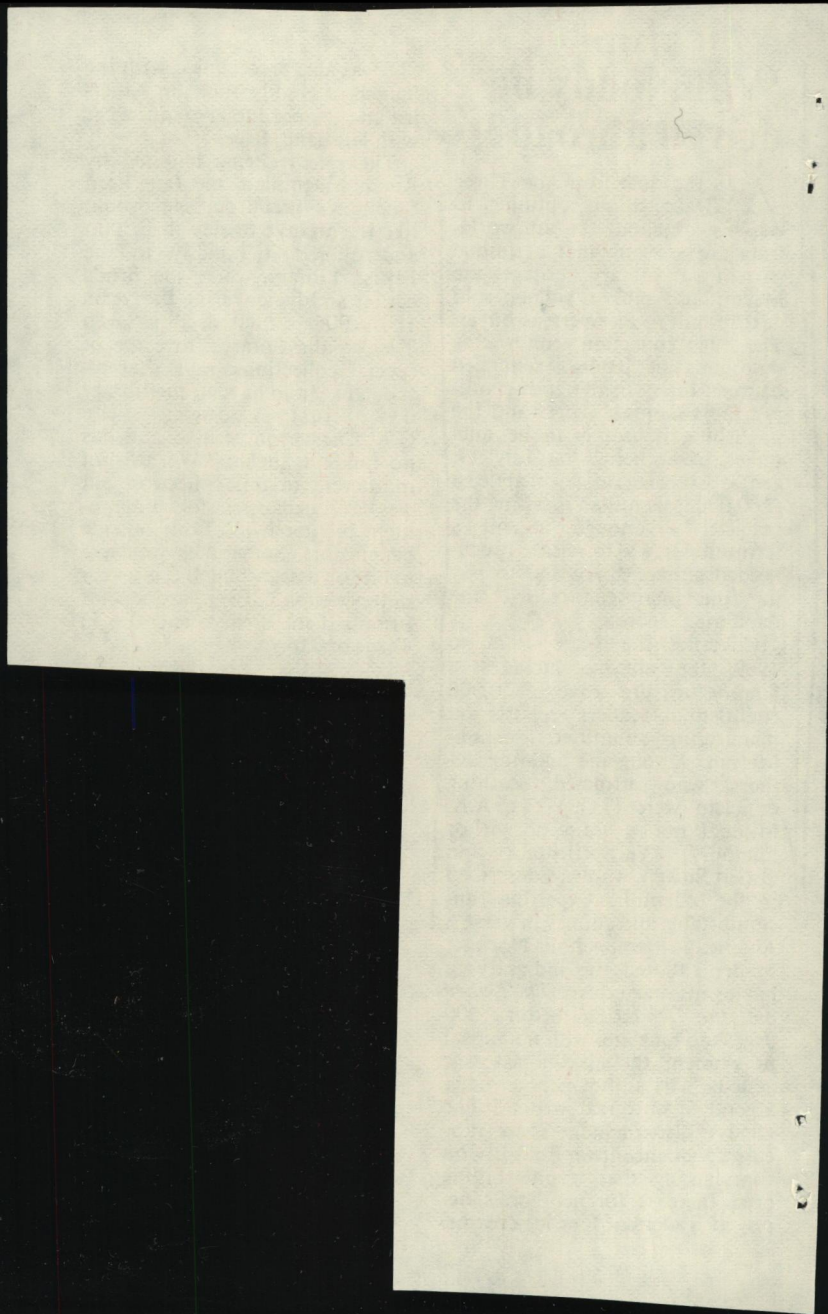
Will Noddy be driven abroad? 12

As the dust from the Three Graces affair continues to swirl about the art world, fears are growing that a unique part of our literary heritage, the Macmillan Archive, will be sold next month to an overseas buyer. The huge collection, comprising thousands of letters exchanged between many of the 20th century's most famous writers and the publishing house, is to be auctioned at Sotheby's on July 19, and is expected to fetch at least £200,000. Macmillan is selling the material — enough to fill a furniture lorry — to release much-needed storage space and to pay for the maintenance of the remaining records.

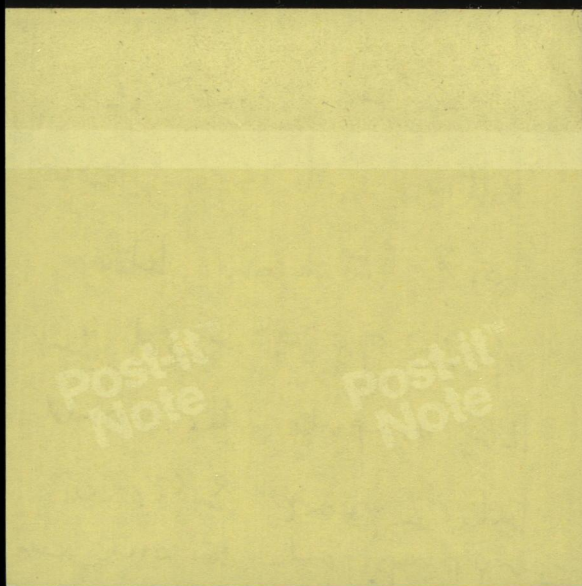
Covering the years 1905 to 1969, the archive includes a literary treasure trove of 20,000 confidential readers' reports on manuscripts submitted for publication. Among the budding authors who attracted scathing criticism were H.G. Wells, A.A. Milne ("not a grain of wit or humour"), Vera Brittain and Osbert Sitwell, who was described by the Macmillan expert as "uncomfortable and clumsy in verse". American literary lion Norman Mailer suffered the indignity of having his masterpiece *The Naked and the Dead* described as 300 pages too long and with no appeal to women, though the assessor added: "The author is potentially a good, if not great writer." The archive also includes some racy correspondence from Enid Blyton complaining that a one-shilling price increase for her books deprived readers of four ice-creams.

She was also preoccupied with the launch of Noddy books in America and the need to give him a car with left-hand drive.

The sale is being handled by Adam Macmillan, the late Lord Stockton's grandson. He would like the archive to stay in Britain and offered it initially to the British Library, where the firm's earlier archive covering the years 1867-1905 is housed. But Sarah Tyacke, the library's director of special collections, says that although keen to have it, the library has just bought the G.K. Chesterton archive and has no funds available. "We are not indifferent to this collection but we have exhausted for the moment the goodwill of our outside benefactors. Sometimes we have to bite on a nasty bullet. It is a very sad occasion." Even sadder for Britain if the archive ends up in Texas or Tokyo.



Don't send this
letter. I see that
Lord Stockton's letter
of 25.7.89 said that
the computer list would
take 2 years. So it is
appropriate to write now.



Miss Andrews

17

*Pls type for my
sig and let me have
back with previous
papers RESS*

di Robin Butler 27.6



HO 90/220 ✓

SP 27/6
MISS PHIPPARD

MACMILLAN PAPERS

A reference in 'The Times' Diary today to the forthcoming sale by Sotheby's of the "Macmillan Archive" gave me some cause for concern until a closer read revealed that it was not the Macmillan papers in which we have an interest which are to be sold; presumably they are the ones for which storage and maintenance is to be paid out of the proceeds of the sale.

It is now two years since Lord Stockton first referred to the cataloguing of the Macmillan papers. A reminder of his undertaking to let us see a printout when one was available might now be appropriate. If Sir Robin Butler agrees, I attach a draft letter for consideration.

Pat Andrews

MISS P M ANDREWS

Historical Section
26 June 1990

~~DRAFT LETTER FOR SIR ROBIN BUTLER TO SEND TO:-~~

The Earl of Stockton
4 Little Essex Street
LONDON
WC2R 3LF

1483

It is almost a year since we corresponded about your proposals for handling your grandfather's papers following completion of the biography by Alistair Horne. ^{Is there any news} ~~I should be most grateful~~ ^{about} if you could ~~let me know~~ when the print-out, to which you referred in your letter of 25 July 1989, is expected to be ready so that I can put in hand any arrangements which will be necessary here to deal with it.

Sounds of fury on the South Bank 3

THE SOUTH Bank Centre is in danger of being boycotted by London's orchestras unless it backs down over recently-imposed rent rises.

In an unprecedented show of unity, orchestras using the concert halls have refused to sign next season's contracts.

They are protesting at a

by Robin Stringer

further eight per cent increase in charges for the Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room which follows this season's increase of 16 per cent.

The orchestras are the London Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic, Philharmonic

nia, BBC Symphony, London Mozart Players, City of London Sinfonia and London Sinfonietta.

They were further antagonised by the South Bank's refusal to accept a compromise offer to pay 12 per cent instead of 16 and its unsatisfactory response to their complaints of poor service and facilities.

"The standards are deplorable", said Libby MacNamara, director of the Association of British Orchestras. "The situation is going to get worse."

The centre admitted that not all was perfect, but said the problems were no more than might reasonably be expected in an organisation of its size.

THE INDEPENDENT

Lost prestige of the Natural History Museum

From Professor Minchen Chow: I and my colleagues in the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Academia Sinica and the Peking Natural History Museum are shocked to learn that the Natural History Museum in London is about to curtail a number of posts, mostly in science departments, and to close down or reduce research in a number of areas, including living and fossil mammals. This research was initiated by Sir Richard Owen, who, besides having been the founder of the museum, published in 1870 his study on the first collection of Chinese fossil mammals, now housed in the museum.

The Natural History Museum has enjoyed for more than two centuries a highly prestigious position in the circle of natural history investigations worldwide. This tradition has to be maintained as one of Britain's most important contributions to science. The museum is not only Britain's national pride but also a part of the world's cultural heritage.

The museum has gained its unique position and reputation not only by virtue of the size, quantity and value of its collections gathered from all parts of the world over the past two centuries, but even more through the high quality of its custodial work which could only be achieved by high-level research personnel. Only if the research collections are studied and curated by competent staff who keep abreast of new concepts and methods in taxonomy, can the museum continue to serve scientists the world over. Let the museum remain an irreplaceable centre of up-to-date natural history research, rather than a mere treasure house of lifeless specimens.

With high esteem,
MINCHEN CHOW
Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology
Peking, China
9 June

The writer is director of the Peking Natural History Museum and president of the Chinese Association of Science Museums.

Daily Telegraph
19

The Duke of Gloucester, Trustee, British Museum, will open the "Porcelain for Palaces" Exhibition at the Museum on July 7.

A memorial service for Lord O'Neill of the Maine will be held today in St Anne's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Belfast, at 2.50 pm.

A memorial service for Major P.R. Reed will be held today at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, W1, at 10.45 am.

A memorial service for Mr Harry Ward Bailey II will be held today at Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, Mayfair, at 11 am.

THE TIMES

Will Noddy be driven abroad? 12

As the dust from the Three Graces affair continues to swirl about the art world, fears are growing that a unique part of our literary heritage, the Macmillan Archive, will be sold next month to an overseas buyer. The huge collection, comprising thousands of letters exchanged between many of the 20th century's most famous writers and the publishing house, is to be auctioned at Sotheby's on July 19, and is expected to fetch at least £200,000. Macmillan is selling the material — enough to fill a furniture lorry — to release much-needed storage space and to pay for the maintenance of the remaining records.

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THE TIMES

New offices next summer 8

MPs' offices in the new parliamentary building in Bridge Street opposite Big Ben should be available for occupation after the summer recess next year, Sir Geoffrey Howe, leader of the House, said at question time.

Sir John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C) said that the provision of more offices would mean even fewer MPs in the chamber and the smoking room.

4/2



16

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS
01-270 0101

Miss Andrews

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

Sir Robin Butler KCB CVO

Ref. A090/164 ✓

18 January 1990

Dear Mr. Horne,

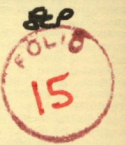
Thank you for your letter of 15 January. I too enjoyed our conversation and I am most grateful to you for making enquiries about the Macmillan archive. I do not need to trouble Lord Stockton just yet but I have an arrangement with him to be in touch when the work on the catalogue has been completed.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Robin Butler

A Horne Esq
21 St Petersburg Place
LONDON
W2 4LA



HO 90/10 ✓

Pl. type for
my sig.
PMB
18.1.

SIR ROBIN BUTLER

THE MACMILLAN PAPERS

The information in Mr Alistair Horne's letter of 15 January confirms that given to us by Lord Stockton in his letter of 25 July 1989. He said then that the part-time archivist who is preparing the catalogue had estimated that the work would take two years to complete. At that time Lord Stockton has undertaken to let us have a complete printout of the content of the archive. Lord Stockton said further that the Trustees had decided not to grant access to anyone other than Mr Horne for five years from July 1989. We are however hoping that we shall be granted access once the printout has been made available so that we can advise on anything which should not be made publicly available even at the end of the five year period.

I would not have thought that a further approach to Lord Stockton was desirable at this stage but you might wish to thank Mr Horne for the information he has provided. I attach a draft letter for your consideration.

20.6.91

Pat Andrews

MISS P M ANDREWS

Historical Section
17 January 1990

21 ST. PETERSBURGH PLACE
LONDON W2 4LA
01-229 4270

14

15th January 1990

Sir Robin Butler, KCB, CVO,
Cabinet Office,
70 Whitehall,
SW1A.

c- Miss Andrews D7.2.90

CABINET OFFICE
A 495
17 JAN 1990
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE NO.

*I should welcome Mrs
Andrews' comments
RWB 17.1.*

Dear Sir Robin,

I greatly enjoyed our conversation at the Belgian Embassy last week, and have since enquired about the intended future of the Macmillan archives.

You might like to know that they are at present held at a house retained by the family at Birchgrove, "Porches", while they are being catalogued. This will last, provisionally, until June 1991 and the anticipation is that they will then be held indefinitely at "Porches" and not open to public scrutiny for several years.

If you wanted any further details, I am sure Lord Stockton would oblige.

I hope this is helpful.

*with best wishes,
Yours sincerely,
Alistair Horne*

FROM ALISTAIR HORNE

CX
Copied to Miss Clay, Fco
on 8.8.89 tog. with letters
of 25 + 18 July

Post
s/s

13



CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

01-270 0101

Miss Andrews

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

Sir Robin Butler KCB CVO

Ref. A089/2088 ✓

31 July 1989

Dear Lord Stockton,

Thank you for your letter of 25 July. I quite understand your reasons for wishing to restrict access to the papers and the five year ban imposed should allow time for us to advise on any material which should not, even after that period, be made publicly available. I look forward to receiving the computer printout of the contents of the archive and am grateful to you for your assurance that the records are in the meantime being kept in secure conditions.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Butler

The Earl of Stockton
4 Little Essex Street
LONDON
WC2R 3LF



Mary Horne. I agree.
H. type for my 217 PERS 28.7.

Sir R. Butler

FOLIO
12

HO 89/332 ✓

CABINET OFFICE
A 8567 ✓
28 JUL 1989
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE NO

MR WOOLLEY

THE MACMILLAN PAPERS

In Lord Stockton's letter to Sir Robin Butler dated 25 July, which is a response to Sir Robin's letter of 18 July, he says that agreement has been reached at a meeting of the Trustees to allow access to the Macmillan papers only to Alistair Horne for a period of five years. Lord Stockton also says that the cataloguing of the Archive will take two years, after which he will let us have a computer printout of the contents.

I have discussed Lord Stockton's letter with the Foreign Office who, as I mentioned in my minute of 12 July, are very anxious to retrieve the Caserta papers, some of which at least it seems may be originals of which we may have no copies. The Foreign Office would therefore like to get earlier access to the papers. They also make the point that unless we are allowed to see what the Archive contains in advance of the computer file being produced, it might contain things which should not be made publicly available.

I have sympathy with the FCO's concern but the fact is that the Macmillan papers have been out of official custody at least since 1963 (and the Caserta papers probably much longer). I do not see how we can claim to need to see them as a matter of urgency. On the other hand I would hope that Lord Stockton would be prepared for us to inspect the archive during, say, the time between the computer printout being made available to us and the ban on access being lifted, otherwise we would not be able to offer the advice mentioned in Sir Robin's letter of 3 October 1988 (AO88/2864); and at that stage we could also seek to have deleted from the computer record any thing which could not, even then, be made publicly available. The reasons given for imposing the ban hardly apply to HMG but I get the impression from Lord Stockton's letter that a request to be allowed access whilst the Trustees' Archivist is working would not be welcome and that we would be more likely to make progress if we awaited receipt of the computer printout. I attach a suggested draft reply for consideration.

I agree
but the
implication
of his letter
is that he
will.

?
D10-6-91

Pat Andrews

MISS P M ANDREWS

Historical Section
28 July 1989

From The Earl of Stockton

11

4 LITTLE ESSEX STREET
LONDON WC2R 3LF

836 6633
5.30pm 0533)

Your Ref. A089/1924

25th July, 1989

CABINET OFFICE
A 8434 ✓
25 JUL 1989
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE No.

c- Miss Andrews D 8.8.89.

This looks satisfactory. Should be grateful for a brief draft reply after FCO have been consulted.

Dear Sir Robin

Thank you very much for your letter of July 18th. Curiously enough I have on my desk a copy of the Minutes of a recent meeting of the Trustees of my grandfather's Book Trust and I am happy to say that we have decided that there will be no access of any kind, other than by Alistair Horne for corrections, etc., for five years from July 1st this year. We feel it is appropriate both from the point of view of confidentiality and also to enable the considerable investment that the Company has made to be recouped both in hardback and in due course in paper.

The archive material is being catalogued, as I told you, and a computer file of what is in every folder and where is being prepared. The archivist, who is part-time, estimates that this will take two years and once this is ready I will be happy to let you have a print-out. In the meantime the records are being kept securely in the Estate Office.

AS WSW

Alexander Stockton

Sir Robin Butler, K.C.B., C.V.O.



F
10

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

01-270 0101

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

Sir Robin Butler KCB CVO

Ref. A089/1924 ✓

18 July 1989

c- Miss Andrews D 8.8.89

Dear Lord Stockton,

You will recall that you wrote to me on 27 September last year about your proposals for the handling of your grandfather's and father's papers prior to a decision being taken upon their eventual destination.

Now that the Second Volume of the Biography has been published I assume that the Trustees will be considering the matter again and I should be most grateful for any information there may be about progress with the cataloguing to which you referred in your letter of 27 September 1988. As you know my concern is that we should have the opportunity to identify any public records which the collection may contain, including papers relating to the period when your grandfather was the British Resident Minister, Mediterranean, in Caserta; and to discuss their handling with the Trustees, before they are passed on or public access is given to them.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Butler

The Earl of Stockton
4 Little Essex Street
LONDON
WC2R 3LF

9

HO 89/303 ✓

MR WOOLLEY

THE MACMILLAN PAPERS

I attach, as requested, a draft letter to Lord Stockton for Sir Robin Butler's consideration.

The piece about the Caserta papers is added at the Foreign Office's request, they are most concerned to retrieve them if at all possible.

Pat Andrews

MISS P M ANDREWS

Historical Section
12 July 1989



CABINET OFFICE
70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS
01-270 0101

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

Sir Robin Butler KCB CVO

Ref. ~~AO88/2864~~ ✓



3 October 1988

Dear Lord Stockton,

Thank you for your letter of 27 September 1988. I am most grateful to you for setting out so fully the position with regard to your grandfather's and father's papers and your proposals for the future handling of them.

I welcome the fact that the Trustees are planning to employ an archivist to catalogue the papers. I look forward to receiving the Archivist's report when it is available. As you say, we can then offer advice before the papers are passed on or access to them is given. If, during the course of the work, the Archivist should find anything on which our people could offer help or advice please encourage him not to hesitate to get in touch with my office.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Butler

The Earl of Stockton
4 Little Essex Street
London
WC2R 3LF

Please bf
mid Jan 1989 to see if
any developments.

FOLIO
8

PJA 6/10
Miss Andrews

POLIO 7

CABINET OFFICE
A 9854 ✓
30 SEP 1988
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE No.

Sir R. Butler

HO397 ✓

*Pl. type for my
and keep
Srg, ~~revising~~ their revision to
Miss Andrews. I want to underline
that we should have a chance to comment
before the papers are disposed of or
access is given to them.*

MR WOOLLEY

THE MACMILLAN PAPERS

In his letter of 27 September 1988 Lord Stockton sets out the position with regard to his grandfather's papers which are to be catalogued by an Archivist employed by the Trustees and held in the Estate Office on the Birch Grove Estate until a decision is taken as to their eventual destination. A copy of the Archivist's report is to be made available to you from which we should be able to identify those papers which are of concern to us. I attach a suggested draft reply to Lord Stockton simply thanking him for the information which seems quite satisfactory and looking forward to receiving the report in due course.

TEB

D 10.6.91

It remains to be seen whether the representations which Brigadier Cowgill said he would make about the 'Caserta' files bring about any advance on what is proposed in Lord Stockton's letter but it seems more than likely that he would simply tell the Brigadier that the matter was in hand.

If Sir Robin is content I would propose to let the Foreign Office know what has transpired as it was Brigadier Cowgill's request for permission to use one of their papers in his report which alerted us to the potential problem of public records amongst the collection at Birch Grove.

Pat Andrews

MISS P M ANDREWS

Historical Section
29 September 1988

NOTE FOR RECORD

Brigadier Cowgill came to see Sir Robin Butler on Wednesday, 21 September 1988. Miss Andrews, Head of the Historical Section and Mr Woolley were present.

Brigadier Cowgill said that the interim report of the inquiry into the repatriation of surrendered enemy personnel on which he had been engaged with Lord Brimelow, Brigadier Tryon-Wilson and Mr Christopher Booker for the last 2½ years was to be made publicly available following a Press Conference to be held at the Royal United Services Institute in Whitehall the following day. He expressed his gratitude for the help he had received from the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign Office and the Cabinet Office. Sir Robin thanked him and said that his appreciation would be passed on to those concerned.

The question of public acknowledgement of the help given by Government Departments was raised but not pursued when Sir Robin indicated that practical assistance such as calling up files from the Public Record Office was not something which could be done for everyone.

It was agreed during discussion that Brigadier Cowgill could, if the need arose, refer to the correspondence which had passed between the then Harold Macmillan and the then Sir Robert Armstrong in 1980 when Sir Robert had responded to a request for copies of telegrams which had passed between General Keightley and Field Marshal Alexander in 1945.

Brigadier Cowgill mentioned the "Caserta files" for the period when Mr Macmillan was Resident Minister and which are at Birch Grove. He said that he proposed to suggest to the Trustees that they should copy the papers for the Macmillan collection and return the originals to us. Sir Robin said he would be most grateful if Brigadier Cowgill would make that suggestion.

In conclusion the Brigadier/^{said} that he hoped that the final report would include whole documents rather than extracts. Sir Robin asked him to clear with us the use of any Cabinet documents in this way.

Brigadier Cowgill left with us two copies of the interim report.

T A WOOLLEY

Cabinet Office
29 September 1988

From The Earl of Stockton

5

4 LITTLE ESSEX STREET
LONDON WC2R 3LF

01-836 6633
(after 5.30pm 0533)

CABINET OFFICE
A 9719 ✓
28 SEP 1988
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE No.

27th September, 1988

c - Miss Andrew 5.10.88

FBFB
Dear Sir Robin,

Thank you very much for your letter of September 6th. All my grandfather's papers are, in fact, controlled by a group of Trustees, namely his lawyer, Michael Hamilton of Taylor Garrett, Sir Philip de Zulueta and myself, and it is our intention that no access will be granted to my grandfather's papers until after the second volume of the biography is published next year. Between now and then the Trustees are employing an archivist who will sort through and catalogue the papers, including all those additions since my grandfather's retirement, and also all my father's personal and political papers.

It is the intention of the Trustees that the papers should be kept securely at the Estate Office on the Birch Grove Estate, which will be retained along with some small parcels of land once the Estate has been disposed of. The Estate Manager, Air Vice-Marshal Derek O'Hara, has undertaken to ensure that all the papers are both safe and secure, and the Trustees will meet after the publication of Volume II to decide whether or not the papers should be passed to an academic institution or maintained at the expense of either the Trustees or the Publishing Company.

I will ensure that any report produced by the archivist cataloguing the collection is made available to your office and on the basis of any subsequent judgement the Government archivist may make we can proceed accordingly. I don't think there is any urgency as the publication date for Volume II has yet to be fixed.

I feel I should also point out that it was my grandfather's intention in due course to publish more of his diaries in view of the success of the Second World War Diaries that were published in 1984. They are very vivid and like most diaries of great men highly subjective! We would ensure that we started with his First World War Diaries and work slowly on so that by the time we got to the most recent ones all the protagonists for one reason or another would be unlikely to object.

yours sincerely
Stockton

Sir Robin Butler, K.C.B., C.V.O.



FOLIO
4

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

01-270 0101

~~c- Miss Andrews~~ D 6.10.88

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

Sir Robin Butler KCB CVO

Ref. A088/2598 ✓

6 September 1988

Dear Lord Stockton,

You will recall that we corresponded over Professor Donald Cameron Watt's access to your grandfather's papers. 234/19

I understand that Alastair Horne's work on the biography of your grandfather is almost complete and that publication is expected this Autumn. It occurs to me to ask whether you have any plans in mind for the papers on which Mr Horne has been working in order to produce the biography. As you will appreciate, given the high offices held by your grandfather during his lifetime, it seems likely that the collection will contain a proportion of official papers which will be public records.

If you were proposing to deposit the collection with a University or other institution it would be extremely helpful if you would allow Government archivists access to the papers so that they might first familiarise themselves with what the collection comprises by way of official documents and, secondly, see whether there is anything of a confidential nature which we might need to ask you or the relevant institution to withhold from public view until its counterpart in the departmental files is made generally available in the Public Record Office at Kew.

I should, of course, be glad to discuss this matter with you if you would find that helpful.

Your sincerely,

The Earl of Stockton
4 Little Essex Street
London WC2R 3LF

Robin Butler

copy 09 234/19.

H0368^A ✓

CABINET OFFICE	
A	9055 ✓
- 5 SEP 1988	
FILING INSTRUCTIONS	
FILE No.

FOLIO
3

MISS BOWDERY

THE MACMILLAN PAPERS

In his manuscript note dated 5 August 1988 Sir Robin Butler asks if he can see the previous correspondence which he and Lord Armstrong had with Lord Stockton on the Macmillan papers before he decides whether to take the course of action proposed in my minute of 4 August 1988.

We think that the correspondence to which Sir Robin refers must be that relating to Professor Donald Cameron Watt's request for access to the papers for the purpose of preparing the Official History of Defence Organisation since 1945. Relevant copies are attached.

In his letter of 22 September 1987 Lord Stockton points out that control of the papers has passed to the Trustees of the Harold Macmillan Book Trust. This should not preclude us from taking the action which I have suggested in respect of any public records which the collection might contain, nor should the fact that Professor Watt has received permission to carry out some research on the papers. I am afraid that I do not know whether Professor Watt has in fact visited Birch Grove but it seems likely that any further access would be subject to the same conditions as were applied to him - see Lord Stockton's letter of 2 March 1988.

Pat Andrews

MISS P M ANDREWS

Historical Section
2 September 1988



CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

01-270 0101

~~c-Miss Andrews~~

~~D 17 8.88~~

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

Sir Robin Butler KCB CVO

~~Ref. A088/775 ✓~~

8 March 1988

Dear Lord Stockton,

Thank you for your letter of 2 March about Professor Donald Cameron Watt's request for access to your grandfather's papers. I was glad to hear that the key had been found and grateful to you for giving consideration to the request.

Professor Watt has been informed of the conditions under which you are prepared to grant him access to the papers. He will, of course abide by them. He hopes that he may be allowed to make notes to serve as an aide memoire. Perhaps I could ask you to be so kind as to arrange for Air Vice Marshal O'Hara to confirm that this would be acceptable when Professor Watt contacts him to make arrangements to visit Birch Grove.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Butler

The Earl of Stockton
4 Little Essex Street
London
WC2R 3LF

From The Earl of Stockton

54

4 LITTLE ESSEX STREET
LONDON WC2R 3LF

01-836 6633
(after 5.3 0533)

*Miss Andrews will
deal with Prof. Watt
313*

CABINET OFFICE	
A	2328 ✓
3 MAR 1988	
FILING INSTRUCTION	
FILE No.	

2nd March, 1988

~~c-Miss Andrews~~
217.2.88

*Dear Sir Robin, I should
acknowledge RB/B*

*Pat Andrews will
provide a draft*

I am sorry not to have come back to you before now concerning the request I received from Sir Robert Armstrong last autumn that Professor Donald Cameron Watt might have access to my grandfather's papers for the period 1945-60. I am very relieved to be able to tell you that the key has been found and I think the best thing would be for Professor Watt to get in touch direct with the Estate Manager, Air Vice-Marshal Derek O'Hara, C.B., R.A.F. (Retd.), to make the necessary arrangements to visit Birch Grove. His address is The Estate Office, Birch Grove House, Chelwood Gate, Nr. Haywards Heath, Sussex, RH17 7BT.

In giving this permission I must emphasise, however, that as a trustee of my grandfather's papers I cannot allow Professor Watt to remove any papers from the file nor must he photocopy anything without my express permission. I must also insist that Air Vice-Marshal O'Hara is present all all times while the files are being examined.

I am sure that both you and Professor Watt will understand these restrictions and if there are any particular problems, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

*Yours sincerely
Snowdon.*

Sir Robin Butler, C.V.O.,
Secretary of the Cabinet.

cc. Air Vice-Marshal Derek O'Hara

45

c - Miss Andrews.
D178.88



70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01- 270 0101

Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

~~Ref~~ A087/3272 ✓

20 November 1987

Dear Alexander,

Thank you very much for your letter of 13 November.

Your grandfather's papers are obviously totally secure at the present time! I look forward to hearing from you again, when the keys have come to light and you are able to have access to them again.

*Yours ever
Robert*

The Earl of Stockton
4 Little Essex Street
London
WC2R 3LF

From The Earl of Stockton

43

4 LITTLE ESSEX STREET
LONDON WC2R 3LF

01-F
(after 5
633
m 0533)

Your Ref. A087/2662

13th November, 1987

CABINET OFFICE	
A	11345 ✓
16 NOV 1987	
FILING INSTRUCTION	
FILE No.

c - Miss Andrews
517 222

Dear Robert,

36

Further to my letter of September 22nd I have now had the concurrence of the Trustees of my grandfather's papers and would be happy for Professor Watt to visit Birch Grove to consult them. There is, unfortunately, a temporary problem. Owing to my own incompetence I have managed to lock away in a safe place the keys to the filing cabinet and, partly because of the upheavals caused by the hurricane, which kept us without heat or light for over two weeks, I have for the moment been unable to put my hands on the safe place where I put them. However, I am confident that all will come back to me in due course and we will be able to get the filing cabinet open without resort to the use of a crowbar.

In the meantime I do assure you that the papers are safe and secure from intervention from the elements and if I may I will come back to you when the problem has been sorted out.

yours

Alexander

Sir Robert Armstrong, G.C.B., C.V.O.

M

CABINET OFFICE
A 9559 ✓
24 SEP 1987
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE No

36

From the Chairman
The Earl of Stockton

22 September 1987
c - ~~Mrs Andrews~~
D 17.8.88

Your ref. A087/2662

Dear Sir Robert,

34

Thank you very much for your letter. Control of my grandfather's papers has passed to the Trustees of the Harold Macmillan Book Trust, namely Sir Philip de Zulueta, Michael Hamilton (my Trustee and the family solicitors) and myself. I am passing on your letter to them.

We will arrive at a decision with all possible despatch and I will be writing to you shortly.

yours sincerely

Alexander Stockton

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Macmillan Publishers Ltd

Registered Office 4 Little Essex Street London WC2R 3LF Telephone 01-836 6633 Cables Publish London WC2 Telex 262024

Registered No. 785999 England



c. Miss Andrews
D 17.8.88

34

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

01-270 0101

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

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. A087/2662 ✓

15 September 1987

Dear Lord Stockton,

One of the official historians, Professor Donald Cameron Watt, who has been appointed by the Government to prepare the Official History of Defence Organisation since 1945 has asked if he might have access to your grandfather's papers for the period 1945-60.

In his capacity as official historian, Professor Watt has had access to the official records, but finds that they give him little indication of the thinking behind the decisions of the day or how the various proposals put to your grandfather were assessed. He feels that perusal of the personal papers, especially the diaries, would enable him to reach a better understanding of these aspects and to "put some flesh on the bones".

Professor Watt has consulted the biographer, Alastair Horne, who has said that he personally would have no objection to access being accorded for the period in question, particularly as Mr Horne's book will be published before Professor Watt's Official History.

I should be most grateful if you would let me know whether you feel able to accede to this request, and, if so, to whom we should apply on Professor Watt's behalf.

Yours sincerely

Robert Armstrong

The Earl of Stockton
Macmillans Publishers Ltd
4 Little Essex Street
London
WC2R 3LS

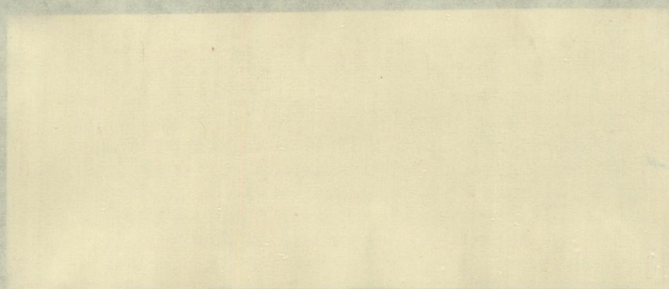
FOLIO
2

Stockton home sold

The family home of the late Lord Stockton, the former prime minister Harold Macmillan, has been sold to an undisclosed buyer for £7 million, £2 million more than the asking price. Birchgrove House, completed in 1926, stands in 1,234 acres of wooded land at Chelwood Gate, East Sussex. It was put on the market two months ago and had attracted about forty prospective buyers, Humberts of London, the agents, said yesterday.

The Times 12 August 1988

5



The TIME 15 August 1988

Miss Andrews.

Mr Cutbert -
Brown rang about
the Stockton app:
they've found your
minute, + Sir Robin's
note on it means
that no reply will
be sent until he
returns from leave.

the file has only short-term usefulness (ie extending five years) it should be marked at a. for destruction after a determined time within five years of closure when it is determined that it will have ceased to be of any further use to the Government. But destruction will not then take place automatically. The Registrar will take account of any continuing calls for the file if it cannot be so treated b. will apply. Each file so

HO 336

~~Miss Andrews~~

Sir R. Butler

CABINET OFFICE
A 8505 ✓
5 AUG 1988
FILING INSTRUCTIONS
FILE No.

P. G. paper
My sig.

FOLIO
1

MR WOOLLEY

cc Mr Stevens

I recall that Lord
Armstrong and I had
previous correspondence with Lord
Stockton on the Macmillan papers. Could I pl. - PPS attached
see that correspondence before deciding on this? e

On 22 December 1987 Brigadier Cowgill called to see Lord Armstrong and Sir Robin Butler to give them an explanation of the project on which he is engaged with Lord Brimelow, Brigadier Tron-Wilson and Mr Christopher Booker on the repatriation of the Cossaks and the Yugoslavs after the war.

FERS
5.8

30/50

Brigadier Cowgill said at that meeting that he would be letting us have a copy of his report for comment and "clearance" before it went for publication. He called to see me again yesterday, 3 August, to say that the report is very nearly in a state in which it can be made available to us. He also showed me documents which he had acquired from the Macmillan collection at Birch Grove and asked whether it would be in order for him to publish them as key documents with the report. They were clearly Foreign Office documents and I am therefore consulting my colleagues there.

The request by Brigadier Cowgill to publish documents which he has got from Birch Grove has however brought to light a wider question about the papers held there. The Foreign Office tell me that it is apparent, even from the few documents shown to us, that the Macmillan collection contains public records, perhaps even some original records of which we have no copies; one of the letters brought in by Brigadier Cowgill is one for which the FCO has been searching for years.

It is thought that Birch Grove is to be sold and Brigadier Cowgill says he thought he heard mention of the papers being deposited with Birmingham University now that the biography of Harold Macmillan on which Mr Alastair Horne has been working for some time is, apparently, completed and is to be published in the Autumn. It is important, preferably before the papers are deposited anywhere, that we should know what public records are amongst them so that we can make arrangements for them to be handled in accordance with the Public Records Acts.

We can only do this by agreement with Lord Stockton, the Trustees and/or with the University or other institution in which the documents are placed. I wonder whether Sir Robin would be prepared to write to Lord Stockton as a first step to see whether we can gain access to the papers. I attach a draft letter for consideration.

D10.691

Pat Andrews

MISS P M ANDREWS

Historical Section
4 August 1988