



PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
SIR CLIVE WHITMORE GCB CVO

PERSONAL AND IN CONFIDENCE

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RECEIVED	REPLY (IF REQUIRED) BY
24 JAN 1994	04 FEB 1994
COMMISSIONER'S PRIVATE OFFICE	

18 January 1994

Dear Robert,

This is just to round off the various conversations which you, Paul Condon and I had last week on the protection of the Princess of Wales.

We agreed that ideally, in order to protect the Metropolitan Police and the Home Secretary, we ought to have available a piece of paper which set out why the police believed that the Princess of Wales should continue to have protection but which went on to say that Her Royal Highness, notwithstanding these arguments, had decided not to have protection. This document should be seen by the Princess of Wales, so that, at least tacitly, she accepted its contents. But such a piece of paper did not already exist, and we agreed that to prepare one now and show it to Her Royal Highness would risk a response which would not be the one we wanted. You suggested that the way to proceed was to let matters continue for the rest of January as they now were, ie with all protection withdrawn except when the Princess of Wales was with her children. You had already arranged a meeting for 2 February to discuss with David Meynell and Patrick Jephson Her Royal Highness' future security arrangements in the light of how things had gone in January. Following that meeting you proposed to put a note to the Princess of Wales which said that her security had been reviewed in the light of experience during January of her new circumstances; that it remained the view of the police that she should have protection; but that it was your understanding and that of the police that she still declined to accept it. You thought that at that point Her Royal Highness might well acknowledge such a note.

You added that if something unfortunate happened between now and early February which might not have occurred if the Princess of Wales had had protection, you would be ready personally to go on the record to say that it was by her own decision that protection had been withdrawn, notwithstanding unequivocal police advice to the contrary.

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INQ0058860