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*From Mr Martin Howard
Deputy Chief of Defence Intelligence*



CDI 2/25, 4/2 & 4/3

23 July 2003

Thank you for your letter of 8 July (which for some reason did not reach me until the middle of last week).

I am grateful to you for drawing my attention to this. I assume you are referring to the minute you wrote on 19 September to DIST, copy to Tony Cragg, my predecessor. I was aware of this and regard it as an entirely proper expression of your views at the time. The Defence Secretary and the former CDI have also been briefed on your note as part of the preparations for the evidence they gave this week to the Intelligence & Security Committee. There is, therefore, no question of your being found culpable in any way for what was, as I say, a perfectly legitimate action.

I do not think you need take any further action, but if you would like to discuss the issue, please feel free to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Martin Howard

MOD/4/0012