

PRIME MINISTER

As I mentioned to you this afternoon, Mr. Dalyell had the following Question down for the Attorney General for priority Written Answer today:

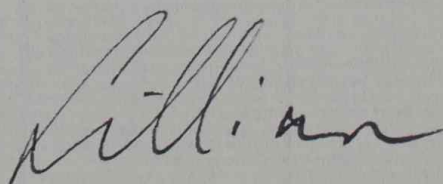
"Mr. Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow): To ask Mr. Attorney General, if the Director of Public Prosecutions has initiated an investigation with a view to prosecution under section 1(i) of the Honours (Prevention of Abuses) Act 1925 into allegations made by Mr. Alan Bristow in respect of the Westland shareholders' meetings."

The Attorney answered "Yes."

He felt that he had no alternative to this answer.

On the report by the Select Committee to the House on Mr. Bristow's refusal to disclose the names of the two Lords, the Speaker told the Chief Whip that it was absurd for the Select Committee to lay such a complaint before the House when Mr. Bristow had written to him as he had done. The Speaker is now trying to persuade Mr. Warren to withdraw the report, and apparently is procedurally possible.

I am seeing the Chief Whip first thing tomorrow and will report any further developments then.



p.p. N. L. WICKS

8 April 1986