

SECRET.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 December, 1983

John [unclear]

MS

Prime Minister.

To be answered.

A.F.C. 13/12

Disappearance of Mr Niall Campbell

/ We have submitted separately, through the Parliamentary Unit, the enclosed line for the Prime Minister to take at Question Time on Mr Campbell's disappearance.

*Paragraph deleted and retained under Section 3(4).
O'Dayland, 12 December 2013*

I am copying this to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

*Yours sincerely,
R B Bone*

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME, 13 DECEMBER 1983;
LINE TO TAKE: DISAPPEARANCE IN PARIS ON 29 NOVEMBER AND
1 DECEMBER RESPECTIVELY OF MR ROBERT GRAHAM AND
MR NIALL CAMPBELL

Since the disappearance of Mr Graham and Mr Campbell was notified to our Embassy in Paris on the first and second of December respectively, the Embassy has remained in contact with the French police, who are investigating these matters. The Embassy was told by the police on the tenth of December that a body found in the sea near Brest had been identified as Mr Campbell's. There is still no news of Mr Graham.

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME, 13 DECEMBER 1983;
DISAPPEARANCE IN PARIS ON 29 NOVEMBER AND 1 DECEMBER
RESPECTIVELY OF MR ROBERT GRAHAM AND MR NIALL CAMPBELL

NOTES FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES

HOW DID MR CAMPBELL DIE?

Apparently by drowning - his body is said to have been in
the sea for five to ten hours. The police are still
actively investigating the circumstances of his death.

WHO HAS BEEN KEPT INFORMED OF THESE CASES?

The Embassy has been throughout in close touch with the
next of kin and professional colleagues of both men.

DID MR CAMPBELL OR MR GRAHAM WORK FOR BRITISH INTELLIGENCE?

I do not comment on security matters.

UNCLASSIFIED

DISAPPEARANCE IN PARIS ON 29 NOVEMBER AND 1 DECEMBER
RESPECTIVELY OF MR ROBERT GRAHAM AND MR NIALL CAMPBELL

BACKGROUND NOTE

- A
1. Please see Paris telno Distress U/N of 12 December which gives a full summary of the information available to our Embassy.
 2. Mr Niall Campbell, aged 42, worked as an assistant planning manager for ICI and was on a routine business visit to Paris.
 3. Mr Robert Graham, aged 27, is a chartered accountant, believed to work for the London-based Transport Development Group.
- B
4. British press speculation continues: see article on page 6 of today's Times.

Consular Department,
FCO
13 December 1983
UNCLASSIFIED

12 DECEMBER 1983. PARIS TELEGRAM DISTRESS U/N

PARIS TELNO 1150 : MISSING BRITONS

1. THE DISAPPEARANCE IN PARIS OF TWO BRITISH CITIZENS ROBERT GRAHAM AND NIALL CAMPBELL WITHIN 2 DAYS OF EACH OTHER AND IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES HAS BEEN TREATED AS A MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN BY THIS EMBASSY SINCE GRAHAM WAS FIRST REPORTED MISSING ON 1 DECEMBER. THE DISCOVERY OF CAMPBELL'S BODY IN BREST HARBOUR IDENTIFIED ON 10 DECEMBER, HAS AROUSED CONSIDERABLE PRESS INTEREST, CULMINATING IN THE INACCURATE REPORT IN TONIGHT'S LONDON STANDARD ALLEGING THAT A SECOND (HEADLESS) BODY FOUND NEAR BREST IS THAT OF GRAHAM. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE FACTS AS THEY ARE KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY.

CAMPBELL

2. THE EMBASSY WERE NOTIFIED ON 2 DECEMBER THAT NIALL CAMPBELL HAD FAILED TO RETURN TO HIS HOTEL ON 1 DECEMBER AND THAT THE FRENCH POLICE HAD BEEN INFORMED. THE EMBASSY CHECKED WITH HOSPITALS TO ENSURE THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN THE VICTIM OF AN ACCIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY KEPT IN CONTACT WITH THE POLICE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO TRACE HIM. NO NEWS WAS RECEIVED UNTIL HIS BODY WAS IDENTIFIED ON SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER AFTER BEING DISCOVERED IN THE SEA NEAR THE ARSENAL AT BREST 300 MILES FROM PARIS AT ABOUT 9AM ON 2 DECEMBER. THE BODY WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN IN THE SEA FOR 5 - 10 HOURS. PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS INDICATED THAT CAMPBELL DIED BY DROWNING. HIS NEXT OF KIN WERE IMMEDIATELY INFORMED. THE POLICE AND EXAMINING MAGISTRATE ARE NOW ACTIVELY INVESTIGATING THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS DEATH.

GRAHAM

3. ROBERT GRAHAM HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE HE LEFT HIS PARIS HOTEL ON TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER. HIS DISAPPEARANCE WAS REPORTED TO THE EMBASSY ON 1 DECEMBER ON WHICH DATE THE POLICE WERE INFORMED. WITH THE APPROVAL OF HIS NEXT OF KIN, AND THE CO-OPERATION OF THE MEDIA, PHOTOGRAPHS OF GRAHAM HAVE BEEN WIDELY DISTRIBUTED. THE POLICE ARE PURSUING THEIR ENQUIRIES BUT SAY THEY HAVE NO REASON TO LINK THE DISAPPEARANCE OF GRAHAM TO THAT OF CAMPBELL. SO FAR THERE IS NO NEWS OF HIS WHEREABOUTS. FRANCE SOIR, THE PAPER WHICH FIRST ALLEGED THAT THE SECOND BODY DISCOVERED IN THE SEA NEAR BREST WAS THAT OF ROBERT GRAHAM, HAVE TOLD THE EMBASSY TODAY THAT, AFTER DISCUSSION WITH THE FRENCH POLICE, THEY ARE SURE THE BODY IS NOT THAT OF GRAHAM.

4. THE EMBASSY HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE NEXT OF KIN AND PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES OF BOTH CAMPBELL AND GRAHAM THROUGHOUT.

ADVANCE COPIES TO ATKINSON, CONS DEPT
NEWS DEPT
WED

FRETWELL

Mystery of businessman's death

Bodies, denials and hints of spying

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

French police are still keeping an open mind about the death of Mr Niall Campbell, the ICI employee, who disappeared in Paris on December 1. Further tests on the body were carried out yesterday in Brest.

The initial post-mortem examination showed that he had drowned, but police would like to know if he was given any drugs or was hit before he fell or was pushed into the sea. There is a wound on his forehead, but it is not clear whether he received it before or after he drowned.

Mr Campbell, aged 42, was married with two children and worked as an assistant planning manager for ICI's fibres division in Harrogate. He came to Paris for a routine business visit on November 30 and booked into his usual hotel, the Vernet.

The next day, December 1, he brought his suitcase down to the lobby, saying he was planning to leave that evening. After attending meetings at ICI's Paris offices in the morning, he lunched with colleagues, before returning to the hotel to leave his briefcase, containing his passport, return air ticket and some money, saying he was going shopping. He was never seen alive again.

On December 2, the French Maritime Police picked up a body which had been washed up on to the rocks near Brest, not far from the French nuclear submarine base on the Ile Longue. The post-mortem showed the man had died at about midnight on December 1, but he was not identified until last Saturday, more than a week later.

Neither Mr Campbell's wife nor ICI know why he should suddenly have gone to Brest. There have been rumours,

however, that he was approached by the British secret service shortly before leaving for Paris.

The Foreign Office has denied any connexion between Mr Campbell and the intelligence services, as it would have to even if true.

The rumours were fed by the disappearance from Paris of a



Mr Campbell: What was he doing near Brest?

second British businessman, Mr Robert Graham, a newly-married accountant, aged 27, with the London-based Transport Development Group.

French police have stepped up their search for Mr Graham, but insist there is no evidence to suggest any link between the cases.

More excitement was generated by reports that a headless, armless body had been found washed up on the rocks near where Mr Campbell's body had been found. It now appears that no such body exists and that the story probably dates back to an incident several months ago.