

MR. TURNBULL

ALAN WALTERS

I had another talk with Alan this afternoon following his return to Washington from his New England holiday.

Unfortunately, he had not at that stage seen my letter but I took him through it. I have to say he was a little unrepentant, continuing to emphasise the point it was written some time ago. I countered that this was beside the point, and that whenever the phrase "so far Mrs. Thatcher has concurred" was written, this was always liable to cause trouble. Eventually I think Alan did, to some extent at least, take the point.

It transpired that, before I had been able to speak to him, Alan had already taken a call from Eleanor Goodman. He had apparently given her the line about it all being a long time ago. I stressed to Alan that he should not talk to any more journalists. After going round the course several times, Alan agreed.

I also asked Alan whether there were any other similar articles written in the past which had yet to see the light of day and which, like this one, were burning on a slow fuse. He could not think of any.

Sara Howe

R PAUL GRAY

23 October 1989