

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION

March 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM:

PETER W. RODMAN *PMR*

SUBJECT:

Letters from Jeremy Thorpe and Friend  
on Alleged White House Documents on  
Rescue of the Romanovs

Jeremy Thorpe has sent a note (Tab C) enclosing a letter to you from a historian friend of his, about alleged White House documents recording the escape of Nicholas II and his family from Ekaterinburg in 1918. Again, the stimulus to all of this is Peter Bessell, the former MP who has spread the word that you told him about all of this at a meeting in the White House a few years ago. You recall that our records show no White House meeting with Bessell and also, unfortunately, no records of the escape of the Romanovs. (If the Romanovs were indeed alive, perhaps we would have an alternative to our detente policy.)

Replies to Jeremy Thorpe and his friend are at Tabs A and B.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the two letters at Tabs A and B.

THE WHITE HOUSE

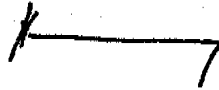
WASHINGTON

May 10, 1975

Dear Jeremy:

Thank you for your kind note of March 4, 1975, enclosing the letter from Susanna Hoe concerning the purported White House documents on the "rescue of the Romanovs." I enclose a copy of the reply I have sent to Ms. Hoe.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Henry A. Kissinger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Henry A. Kissinger

Rt. Hon. Jeremy Thorpe, P. C., M. P.  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA  
England

Enclosure (1)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 10, 1975

Dear Ms. Hoe:

Jeremy Thorpe has passed on to me your letter of February 25th concerning purported White House documents on the "rescue of the Romanovs." I regret to say that I have absolutely no information on the matter; nor, indeed, do I recall ever meeting with Peter Bessell on it. I have had a number of enquiries about the purported documents. Fortunately or unfortunately, neither the White House, the National Security Council, nor the Department of State has been able to locate any such records as are described. The subject remains a complete mystery to me.

I appreciate your writing.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry A. Kissinger', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Henry A. Kissinger

Ms. Susanna Hoe  
8 Roland Gardens  
London SW 7, England

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TRANSMITTAL SLIP

2011/05/02 : LOC-HAK-69-5-4-6

March 4, 1975

For the Attention of

TO Dept. of State Office of the Secretary

FROM Amembassy LONDON

TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE

TO THE DEPARTMENT

- For Transmittal to Addressee at the Discretion of Post
- Post Information Only
- Transmit to Foreign Office
- Submit Report
- Reply to the Individual

- Dept. Information Only
- CERP Publications
- Enclosure to Previous Airgram
- Reply to Department Request

- Transmit to: (U. S. Agency)
- Inform:

REFERENCE

ITEMS/REMARKS

Letter dated March 4, 1975 from the Rt. Hon. Jeremy Thorpe, PC, MP, Leader of the Liberal Party.

IN REPLY REFER TO FILE NUMBER AND DRAFTING OFFICE

FILE NO.

SIGNATURE

*R.S.*  
Ronald I. Spiers

CLASSIFICATION

OFFICE

UNCLASSIFIED

MIN

March 4. 1975



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Secretary,

I am sorry to bother you:  
The enclosed query comes from someone  
who is not a crank! Hence my covering letter.

Briefly, my former  
colleague Peter Benzell has been ill,  
+ it has not been possible to make  
contact. (he writes!)

Mr Sheppard really wants to  
find out is whether you were  
connected or whether she is mistaken.  
Having seen what purports to be  
a photostat of Sir Charles Hardings's  
memo. to George II on an alleged  
escape route taken by the Imperial  
Family I am naturally also  
fascinated! A scribbled reply on

The bank was do the trick

Keep up your  
Tireless work!

7 → very sincere

Jimmy Carter

Dr. Henry Kissinger.

8 Roland Gardens,  
London S.W.7.,

01.373.4002

25th February 1975.

*Dear Mr Secretary,*

Forgive me for troubling you but I had understood from Mr Peter Bessell in January 1974 that you intended to get in touch with me in due course about my book 'Life for the Tsar' - about the escape of Nicholas II and his family from Ekaterinburg.

I have recently heard about a book to be published in the spring in the United States: 'The Rescue of the Romanovs' - Guy Richards - Devin Adair Company. The promotion for this book talks about 'classified documents ... hidden in a White House safe for 56 years, transcriptions of these papers are published for the first time in this book'. As it is not possible for me to talk to Mr Bessell about these latest developments, I feel I have no alternative but to approach you and ask if you can clarify the situation. Am I wrong to have been expecting to hear from you? Are the papers to be released officially? As you can imagine, I am much concerned to hear that all the work I did over a period of years and all the patience I exercised might now have been to no avail.

Because of my anxiety, Mr Jeremy Thorpe is being kind enough to help me ensure that this letter reaches you and I should be most grateful for any help and advice you might feel able to give me. I apologise again for my importunity; I know how busy you are and what a delicate subject this has been in the past.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Susanna Hoe*

Susanna Hoe

The Secretary of State,  
Dr Henry Kissinger,  
Department of State,  
Washington DC 2052,  
U.S.A.