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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 May 1979

Chancellor Schmidt's Visit, 10/11 May 1979

The Prime Minister has now been able to consider the arrangements for Chancellor Schmidt's visit to London on 10/11 May for the next in the series of six-monthly Anglo/German consultations at Head of Government level. The following points require action:

- (i) The Prime Minister would like the Secretary of State for Defence and his German counterpart, Herr Apel, to take part in the discussions. I have already informed Chancellor Schmidt's office of this but you may wish to alert H.M. Embassy in Bonn as well. I should be grateful if you and the M.O.D. would consider urgently whether any expansion of the brief which has been given to the Prime Minister on defence matters (brief no. 5) is called for in view of the participation of Defence Ministers in the discussion.
- (ii) The Prime Minister has approved the outline programme which I enclose with this letter. You will see that the programme on 10 May now begins one hour earlier than envisaged in the discussions which have taken place on the arrangements for the visit; this is to allow time between the end of the first session of talks and the dinner at No. 10 for those attending the dinner to change.
- (iii) The Prime Minister would be grateful if the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary could meet Chancellor Schmidt and his party at Northolt on 10 May and escort him to No. 10.
- (iv) The Prime Minister would like to hold a briefing meeting for the visit at 1730 on Wednesday, 9 May. I should be grateful for advice from the Cabinet Office on attendance.

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- (v) The Prime Minister has agreed to make a short speech at her dinner for Chancellor Schmidt on 10 May which would set the tone and style for the Government's approach to E.E.C. matters. I understand that a draft on these lines is already in preparation. At the lunch for the two delegations at No. 10 on 11 May, the Prime Minister will wish to make a shorter speech, concentrating on Anglo/German relations; I should be grateful if speaking notes could be provided for this as well.
- (vi) The Prime Minister would be grateful if the Minister of State, Mr. Douglas Hurd, would escort Chancellor Schmidt to Oxford on the afternoon of Friday, 11 May, remain with the Chancellor's party during the Honorary Degree ceremony and bid him farewell thereafter at Northolt. I should be grateful if you would confirm that this will be possible.
- (vii) So far as the substance of her discussions with Chancellor Schmidt is concerned, the Prime Minister would like to devote particular attention at her briefing meeting on 9 May to the following subjects:
- Strategic matters, including SALT and nuclear deterrent policy;
 - E.M.S. (on which the Prime Minister would like the Government to have formed at least a preliminary position before her meeting with Chancellor Schmidt);
 - The situation in Turkey and the question of assistance to the Turkish Government.

I should be grateful if those attending the briefing meeting from the Departments concerned with these subjects would come to it prepared to brief the Prime Minister more fully about them.

I am sending copies of this letter to Martin Hall (H.M. Treasury), Roger Facer (Ministry of Defence) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

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Paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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