



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

20. 11. 81.

Hand

Dear Prime Minister,

I want you to know how deeply I regret that Diplomatic Service incompetence should have landed you in such an embarrassing position in Bonn on Wednesday.

I have never hesitated to tell you when I thought that you were not being wholly fair to the Service: and you have been consistently kind in allowing me to do this. So I feel ever more obliged to tell you when I think you have good cause for complaint: and to offer you my very sincere apologies.

I have naturally tried to lock the stable door over the past 24 hours. But that is no compensation for the mistakes that were made. We shall try to do better in future!
With my renewed apologies,
Yours sincerely,

Michael Pallis