



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister.

This letter, which is about the  
briefing of the Press on facts on Monday  
night in Manchester, is really very  
silly, I am afraid. Lord Carrington has  
got it into his head that Bernard did  
some counter-briefing following his own Press  
briefing. This is just not true, and we  
have told Lord C so in plain terms.  
But he has now felt it necessary to  
write.

AKL 26/3

I do not in the least

want to be difficult, but I was a bit  
surprised that it was considered necessary  
to give some sort of corrective briefing,  
after my own, on Monday evening. I do  
not know how this happened & do not  
propose to enquire. But the results were

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Pargard

reflected in the press the following day &  
no doubt caused the editorial in the Daily  
Mail yesterday.

Maybe there is some defect in  
our bridging arrangements, whatever the  
cause, this is a bad time to fuel  
speculation about dissent in the Government.  
I myself have been particularly careful  
to avoid this & have gone out of  
my way to avoid seeing the press  
or of giving any indication about  
differences on the budget or anything

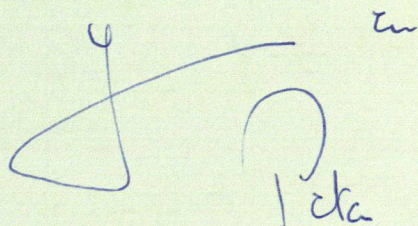


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Enc.

I hope we can avoid anything  
like this in the future and once a  
policy is agreed I am regarded as  
trustworthy enough to present it

 Peter