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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
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MO 18/1/1

14th October 1980

1. Prime Minister  
✓ To see

2. Mr. Jeffrey

14x.

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Dear Chris,

CHEVALINE FLIGHT TRIALS

My Secretary of State has asked me to let you know, for the Prime Minister's information, the plans for the final series of Chevaline development flight trials.

The series, which began in September 1977, is due to conclude in mid-November (although there will later be Service acceptance trials). Three missiles will be launched from HMS RENOWN while she is sailing, submerged, some thirty miles off Cape Canaveral. The missiles are scheduled for launch on 14, 18 and 20 November.

Although the arrival of RENOWN at Port Canaveral will itself have to be the subject of a statement to the press (as is normal when our submarines arrive in the US for "shakedown" tests following refits) the publicity arrangements for each of the trials firings will be the same as for previous trials, that is, notification will be issued to the media, both locally and in the UK, two days before launch but with publication embargoed until launch. - No post-launch release will be issued unless something goes wrong. An updated Press Office brief will be used to deal with any enquiries from the media.

The No 10 Press Office will be informed of the results of the trials.

I am copying this letter to George Walden (FCO) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,  
B M Norbury

(B M NORBURY)

C A Whitmore Esq

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