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Prime Minister
As far as Washington is concerned
this is long overdue.

Excellent
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PRIME MINISTER

DEFENCE REPRESENTATION OVERSEAS:
ECONOMIES

I would like to report the outcome of the plan, consistent with the 10% reduction in overseas representation generally, to reduce defence representation in Washington and in the nine next largest of our overseas Missions.

2. In Washington I shall be making a reduction of 25%, including the abolition of the "3-star" (Deputy Secretary equivalent) post of Head of British Defence Staff. In future instead of 4 top military posts, one of them "3-star" there will be three posts, two "2-star" and one "1-star". Another Assistant Secretary level post will also be cut.

3. In the other nine Missions I will be making a reduction of 10% - cutting 10 posts, two of which are Full Service Attaches.

4. Reductions will have been completed by 1st April next year.

5. I am sending copies of this minute to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and our other colleagues on OD; and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

SW.

Ministry of Defence

20th February 1981