THE RT. HON. DAVID STEEL, M.P.

PO. pps? (pre-elec)



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SWIA OAA

3rd June 1981. R46

Den Pore Rounder,

You may recall that some time in late 1976 you and I accepted the invitation of the Prime Minister to attend a classified defence briefing with the Service chiefs, the Secretary of State for Defence and your then shadow spokesman Ian Gilmour.

I dound the occasion very useful, and am a little surprised that there has been no repeat of this exercise in five years.

While it is the case that there are differing views on basic defence strategy between (and indeed within) the political Parties, I do think it would be useful to have occasional up-dates of this purely factual nature, in particular on Soviet deployment.

I wonder if you would consider such a briefing sometime this year?

as Alter

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing St.,
London SW1.