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SUBJECT

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From the Private Secretary

17 November, 1982

Following a meeting today with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Defence Secretary, the Home Secretary, the Attorney General and Mr. Onslow, which discussed the possibility of a visit by the Prime Minister to the Falklands, Mrs. Thatcher directed that follow up action should be taken by the Secretary of the Cabinet. For security reasons, Mrs. Thatcher has asked that no action should be taken which has not been specifically authorised by either No. 10 or Sir Robert Armstrong. Nor should the possibility of her visit be discussed in correspondence.

Insofar as it is necessary to deal with press enquiries on this matter we should stick to the line that the Prime Minister naturally hopes to go to the Falklands but no decisions have been taken.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence), John Halliday (Home Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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