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*I think this
is fine*

11 October 1983

Prime Minister:

Dear David

Mr Prior proposes to
make a statement on October
24; Sir James Hennessey's report
is unlikely to be available before
late November.

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THE MAZE ESCAPE

Although 4 weeks will have elapsed since the escape from the Maze prison when Parliament resumes on 24 October, Mr Prior considers that it would be right for him to make an early statement on it to the House. The report by Sir James Hennessey is unlikely to be available before late November. While it is likely that a Parliamentary statement will have to be made in due course about Sir James's conclusions and the proposed response, Mr Prior does not think he should wait till then. He therefore wishes to make an interim statement as soon as the House returns and before he leaves for an official visit to the USA late on 24 October.

Mr Prior proposes, without prejudging the Hennessey report in any way, to give a short factual account of the escape; tell the House that he will be making public as full an account of the Hennessey report as is consistent with the future security of the prison; and draw attention to the energy and thoroughness of the enquiry as well as to the Government's commitment to ensuring everything possible is done to improve security.

Mr Prior hopes that the Prime Minister, Lord Privy Seal and Chief Whip will agree with this course of action.

Yours ever

Derek

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