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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 October, 1983

Dear Brian,

Lord Mayor's Banquet

The Prime Minister will as usual be making a major speech at the Lord Mayor's Banquet which takes place this year on Monday, 14 November.

Planning for the speech is only in the very early stages but the Prime Minister's present intention is to devote the larger part of it to domestic affairs. She may then deal with the world economy and international debt problems - drafts on those sections are being separately commissioned.

As to the foreign affairs section of her speech the Prime Minister has taken no decisions as yet but is thinking of speaking about arms control and disarmament and, perhaps, the European Community with particular reference to our approach to the Athens negotiations.

I should be grateful if you would let me have by 31 October a draft covering this ground. I do not suppose the Prime Minister will devote more than 10 minutes of her speech to these matters but I would rather that at this stage the draft erred on the long side.

You may wish to take account of the following points. The Prime Minister will want to speak in broad terms about these subjects. The general theme of her speech may be that the role of the Government has been and will be to challenge fashionable assumptions, to return to well-tryed basic principles, to change in order to conserve, and to be strong both in carrying out the proper functions of government and in leaving to private endeavour and initiative those things which are not the business of government. Insofar as the foreign affairs section can be used to illustrate these ideas, that will be helpful.

On arms control, the speech would probably deal principally with INF in the light of the Bundestag debate, which will then

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be one week away, and the activities of the "peace" movements and any further Soviet statements about INF. A separate section on the relation of the British strategic deterrent to arms control would also be helpful.

On the European Community, the main purpose of the speech would be to convey to our European partners a message about our approach to the Athens negotiations but it should be set in a broad philosophical framework.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence), John Kerr (HM Treasury) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Brian Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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