



MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

D/MIN/TT/13/3

Prime Minister

BOARDING SCHOOL ALLOWANCE

Your office returned the draft letter that officials had prepared for you to Tony Marlow MP on the above subject. The letter was not suitable for an additional reason, namely that no final decisions have been taken on what to do about Boarding School Allowance and I would not have wished, if I had seen the letter, for you to intimate at this stage that we had any immediate intention of doing anything. Rather than give you the pros and cons of differing views on what, if any, changes are needed, I would suggest that the attached non-committal, but more reassuring, letter might be sent to Mr Marlow at this stage and that I give you an undertaking that, before we reach any commitment stage, we will put any proposals for change to your office to seek your views. We are not seeking to be mean; perhaps we could keep the problems here and not waste your time until we have them clearer. I could explain a long and complicated background but would prefer to rationalise the situation before doing so.

*yours*  
*Tom*

15 April 1981

GR  
for Mpl  
cc:IG  
27/4

Thank you for your letter of 16<sup>th</sup> March about educational allowances for Servicemen and diplomats and your fears that the differential between the schemes for these two groups might be increased.

2 The position is currently as stated in my Written Answer to you of 13<sup>th</sup> November last year. Various modifications to the Ministry of Defence scheme have been considered over a long period but no decisions have been taken. The relative position of Servicemen and diplomats will be kept fully in mind. ~~Should any decision to alter the MOD scheme be taken I have asked John Nott Tom Trenchard to inform you of them and of the reasons for them.~~

~~we will let you know of any <sup>serious</sup> ~~alterations~~ decisions~~  
~~we are not ready to alter to the MOD scheme. ~~It~~~~ We shall of course let you know if we decide to make changes in the MOD scheme.