



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

15 December 1981

BF

Dear Tom,

We have talked a number of times over the last few months about the Prime Minister's letter of 9 July 1981 to Mr Foot in which she invited him to be present at a classified defence briefing which Mr David Steel had suggested she should arrange.

When we last had a word at the beginning of November you told me that Mr Foot did not want to respond to the Prime Minister's approach until the Shadow Cabinet elections had taken place and he knew who his Front Bench defence spokesman was going to be. Since then Mr Silkin has of course been appointed to lead for the Opposition on defence matters, and I wonder therefore whether the way is now clear for Mr Foot to decide whether he wishes to take part in the proposed briefing or whether, perhaps, he would prefer Mr Silkin to attend.

Yours sincerely,

Shirley Williams.

Sir Tom McCaffrey

AH

YLC AH

Deputy