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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

24 February 1984

Controls on Anti-Satellite Systems

Thank you for your letter of 20 February. The Prime Minister has read both it and the accompanying paper.

Mrs Thatcher has commented that before we take a decision on whether to discuss the ideas in these documents with the Americans, a much more detailed technical appraisal on the implications of the development of anti-satellite systems is necessary.

BT  
Some of this ground was covered in the interim assessment of President Reagan's speech on defensive technology which Richard Mottram enclosed with his letter of 29 March, 1983. But the Prime Minister would now be grateful if a full paper could be prepared setting out in some detail (and with as much accompanying technical information as is necessary) the military advantages and disadvantages to the West of the development of anti-satellite systems and the implications of activities in this field for arms control. It may be that the Ministry of Defence are best placed to initiate this work.

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

A. J. COLES

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