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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 April 1984

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Dear John,

Forged Recording of PM-Reagan Telephone Conversation

Thank you for your letter of 30 March. The Foreign Secretary has also seen Hugh Taylor's letter of 5 April to you.

The question, raised in your letter of 22 July, of the origin of this recording was considered further at the time but no clear conclusions emerged. The Daily Telegraph of 28 July reported that the State Department suspected KGB 'disinformation'. Neither our friends nor CIA considered this very likely, but further analysis would have required a disproportionate commitment of resources which even CIA felt unable to contemplate.

More recently of course articles in the British press have attributed the production of the tape to the anarchist punk band CRASS (the Observer of 22 January and the Tribune and City Limits of 27 January).

Against this background, the Foreign Secretary agrees with the Home Secretary that in view of the duration and irresponsible origin of the letter, it would be preferable to avoid any reference to it.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours ever,

L V Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

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