



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

Prime Minister

Perhaps I am too suspicious. But it seems to me that one reason why the Defence Secretary proposes a joint European response on SDI research is that he wants build up a body of opinion sceptical of SDI. There doesn't seem any good industrial or scientific reason for a joint response: so it must be political.

An alternative might be coordinated national responses, in which we each tell the other ~~that~~ how we are going to reply, but

retain our national freedom  
of manoeuvre.

Would you like me to  
comment on these lines (i.e. my  
suggested alternative) on your  
behalf?

Yes please mb CDD  
27/3.