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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
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12 August 1980

The Rt. Hon. Francis Pym, MC, MP
Secretary of State for Defence

Dear Francis

ARMED PROTECTION FOR GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES
ABROAD

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 28 July to Peter Carrington. I have also seen the Prime Minister's comments conveyed by her Private Secretary's letter of 6 August.

There are worthwhile economies to be made here. As the report by officials showed (OD(80)2), use of Service personnel would be cheaper than commercial hiring. Moreover, the savings to be secured by reducing the number of Servicemen at our Missions abroad should more than cover the cost of training. In this connection, it would be interesting to know what progress your Department has made towards the 25 per cent target reduction announced two years ago in Cmnd 7308.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, to other members of OD and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

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John

GEOFFREY HOWE

112 AUG 1980

