

Defence
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Defence

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From the Private Secretary

31 January 1983

British Atlantic Committee

At the end of today's ad hoc Ministerial meeting, which discussed nuclear issues and public opinion, there was a brief discussion of the problem of the Government's financial contribution to the above Committee. The Secretary of State for Defence said that some £50-60,000 was needed to increase the present contribution of £48,000 to the £110,000 which the Committee had requested. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office did not have sufficient funds available. The Ministry of Defence had the money but doubted whether it was prudent for the sum to be paid from the Defence Vote.

The Prime Minister said that she believed that the contribution to the Committee should be increased by the amount suggested and it seemed right that the payment should be made by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. She hoped that suitable arrangements could be made between the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with regard to the payment but she did not wish to be further involved in this matter herself.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

AJC

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.