

R E S T R I C T E D

MR RICKETT



*Top Copy on PM Speeches,  
Disarmament Debate.*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

6 April 1983

DISARMAMENT DEBATE

As you know, there is to be a disarmament debate shortly after Parliament returns from the Easter Recess. The precise date is not yet fixed.

On the assumption that Mr. Foot opens for the Opposition, the Prime Minister is likely to open the debate for the Government. I should accordingly be grateful if you could let me have a draft opening speech, agreed with the Ministry of Defence, by close of play on Thursday, 13 April.

I have not yet been able to discuss with the Prime Minister the line she will wish to take in her speech. But I enclose as an annex to this letter an outline which I think she might be disposed to follow.

In the context of preparations for this speech, the Prime Minister would be grateful if Mr. Gilmour could give her another oral briefing to update her on nuclear issues. A convenient time would be 3 o'clock on Monday, 11 April.

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

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.