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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR. RICKETTS
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

President of Nigeria

Since it appeared that it was unlikely that we would be able to arrange a formal bilateral with the President of Nigeria, we arranged for the Prime Minister to sit next to President Shagari at The Queen's dinner for Commonwealth Heads of Government last night.

The Prime Minister told me afterwards that she had not found President Shagari particularly easy to talk to but that they had discussed the Nigerian elections (Mrs Thatcher complimented him on the outcome and the encouragement given to democracy) and had also had an exchange of views on Namibia. The latter exchange was in conventional terms and produced nothing new.

The Prime Minister may get a further opportunity for a talk with President Shagari at the Goa retreat.

A. J. Cole.

24 November 1983