



## 10 DOWNING STREET

In Confidence

21st October, 1980

Mr. Ian Gow is in his Constituency today, and so I am writing to thank you for your manuscript letter to him of today's date, delivered here by special messenger, and opened by me in Mr. Gow's absence.

Because of the importance of your letter, I took it, straight away, to the First Lord of the Treasury.

She was intrigued by the moisture measuring indicators and through that the colours were well chosen by this enterprising Chicago manufacturing company.

You sent only three of these devices, and the Prime Minister would be glad if you could purchase further supplies when next you are in the States.

Very sadly, Mr. and Mrs. Gow are not able to accept your very kind invitation to dine on either 5th or 6th November, but he looks forward to seeing you next week.

Elizabeth Lamb  
Political Office

The Hon. Nicholas Ridley, M.P.

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from the Minister of State



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Oct 21

Dear Ian

I thought you might find this idea useful. I picked it up in the U.S. last week. It seemed to me you could stick one in every Cabinet Minister, and then observe in due course whether they go pink or blue: this will help you to identify the wets.

Any hope of seeing you soon? Could you (+ Jane or whoever, as the case may be) come and dine on 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> November?

Yours are  
Nick