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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

12 February 1982

You may have seen my letter of 18 January to John Rhodes.

I have since seen your letter of 5 February to Mike Pattison containing the second EX(O) Report to the Prime Minister on major civil overseas contracts (it would be helpful if later reports in this series could be sent to me direct). You say in your letter that you will provide a separate report on the Orissa steel plant. I should be grateful if this could now be made available very quickly. Since my letter of 18 January requesting information about the present situation, the Prime Minister has received a good deal of detail from a private source. It seems desirable that she should have a full and up-to-date account from the Department of Trade without delay.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Holmes (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

A. J. COLES

Nicholas McInnes, Esq.,  
Department of Trade.



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From the Private Secretary

18 January 1982

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The next of the series of quarterly reports on major civil overseas sales prospects will doubtless be available soon (your letter of 22 October to Michael Alexander refers).

I think it would be helpful if the report could deal in some detail with the present situation regarding the ORISSA steel plant contract in India. I say this both because of recent telegrams (e.g. Delhi tel. no. Creda 11) suggesting that all is not well and because, as you know, the Prime Minister will be receiving Mrs. Gandhi in London in about two months' time.

I am copying this letter to Roderic Lyne (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

A. J. COLES

John Rhodes Esq  
Department of Trade