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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 November 1983

MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary had a word with the Prime Minister immediately following Cabinet this morning of a new threat to the British contingent in the Multi-National Force. The Defence Secretary had mentioned this to the Prime Minister earlier.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said that he would check on the contingency measures which had been taken both by the British contingent and by the British Embassy against a possible bombing attack and would also consider whether it would be desirable to slim down the Embassy staff and the British contingent.

I know that the Secretary of State for Defence is also considering these matters at a meeting about now.

I should be grateful if the Prime Minister could be kept closely informed.

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

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