

MENT

10 DOWNING STREET LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 July 1990

Vear Helmud-

Your remarks at your press conference today about Nicholas Ridley's unfortunate interview were most generous and I should like to thank you for them. The problem should never have arisen, but he took the honourable course and I hope we can regard that as closing the matter - as indeed you did this morning.

I hope we can make contact when you return from your holiday and we can arrange to meet.

Your way Nayant

His Excellency Dr Helmut Kohl

STRICTLY PERSONAL