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From the Private Secretary

24 November 1987

THE FALKLANDS

Bill Walker MP had a brief word with the Prime Minister in the House of Commons this afternoon about a number of concerns felt by the military in the Falklands. As you know, he has recently returned from a visit there. His points were:

- (i) there is a strong rumour that the privilege of free airletters is to be suspended;
- (ii) that the military are grossly overcharged for telephone calls back to the United Kingdom;
- (iii) they want a swimming pool at Mount Pleasant, which I gather will cost the modest sum of £400,000;
- (iv) the military are paying more for the hospital - I did not understand which one - than they ought to.

The Prime Minister said that she would refer these points to the Defence Secretary. Perhaps you could let me have the draft of a very brief letter to Mr. Walker so that he can see the Prime Minister has followed up his concerns.

I am copying this letter to Robert Culshaw (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

Charles Powell

John Howe, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

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