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NOTE FOR THE RECORD

The Foreign Secretary called on the Prime Minister at 10.30 on Tuesday 19 October. I was present.

The Foreign Secretary said that he had reflected over the weekend about the Prime Minister's desire to ask Sir Anthony Parsons to be her foreign affairs adviser in 10 Downing Street. He accepted that, if she felt that she needed extra advice she should have it, and he did not therefore wish to object to an approach being made to Sir Anthony Parsons. He attached importance, however, to what the Prime Minister had said about the way in which Sir Anthony Parsons would work with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and he would like to see Sir Anthony Parsons after the Prime Minister had talked to him and would also like to arrange for Sir Antony Acland to see him. He remained concerned that Sir Anthony Parsons should act as an adviser rather than as an operator in his own right in the foreign affairs field. He assumed that he would be covered by the normal civil service rules as regards broadcasting or writing on his work, and, while he recognised that foreign ambassadors in London could not be prevented from making social contact with Sir Anthony Parsons, he thought it of great importance that Sir Anthony should keep in close touch with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about such contacts and do his utmost to prevent their being exploited to cause differences between the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary.

The Prime Minister said that she would now arrange to see Sir Anthony Parsons and was quite content that the Foreign Secretary and Sir Antony Acland should also talk to him. She asked me to arrange for him to come to 10 Downing Street later in the week or to Chequers over the weekend.

The rest of the conversation between the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary then covered other current foreign affairs.

F.F.R.B

20 October 1982

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