



JWRADU

be PC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 August 1984

THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

Under cover of his letter of 23 July, Len Appleyard sent me Sir Derek Day's "Final Thoughts" about the Diplomatic Service. As suggested in his letter, I have shown them to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister has read "Final Thoughts". She has decided to refrain from general comment on them.

It is evident, however, that she disagrees with a number of views expressed. In particular, she does not approve of the notion that we should adopt a less activist and interventionist foreign policy or should withdraw from involvement in various issues or parts of the world. She knows of no grounds for believing that the Government regard public servants with disdain. While noting the complaint that cash planning is a blunt instrument, she finds no useful ideas in Derek Day's note on what would be a more effective way of managing the Government's finances.

On the other hand, the Prime Minister has some sympathy with the view expressed in paragraph 13 that once guidelines for expenditure have been set those responsible for individual Departments should be left to get on with their job.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Michael Jay in Sir Antony Acland's Office.

(CHARLES POWELL)

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.