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From the Private Secretary

23 September 1985

CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY THE NEW ZEALAND
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

The Prime Minister met Mr. McLay this morning. Most of the discussion was on Party political matters. The only point I need to record concerns nuclear ship visits. Mr. McLay said it was clear that Mr. Palmer's visit to Washington to find a solution to this problem had failed. When his Party was returned to power, they would restore New Zealand to full membership of ANZUS. They would also allow nuclear powered ships and ships carrying nuclear weapons back into New Zealand ports and would accept a non-disclosure policy. If the present government introduced legislation to ban visits, his government would repeal it as quickly as possible. Mr. McLay spoke categorically and without qualification on these points.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

(Charles Powell)

C.R. Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.