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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

30 August 1988

Dear Bob,

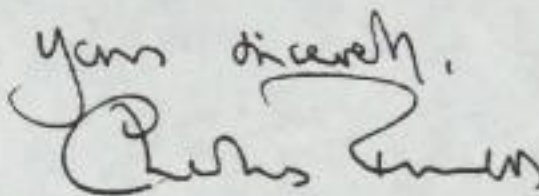
PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO OMAN

Thank you for your letter of 30 August about follow-up to the Prime Minister's visit to Oman. I have two immediate comments:

- it was made clear by the Sultan that his thoughts on a Muslim bloc were very much for the Prime Minister's ears only. He would feel deceived if Mr. Alston were to raise the matter: and the Prime Minister herself would be surprised to learn that the matter had been reported to you and to Mr. Alston. I should be grateful if your covering letter and the draft message could both be amended to remove all reference to this subject;

- since we are to see the Russians tomorrow, it is surely much better to delay the message to the Sultan so that the Prime Minister can report the initial Soviet reaction.

I should be grateful if you could make the necessary amendments.

Yours sincerely,

 (C. D. POWELL)

R. N. Peirce, Esq.,
 Foreign and Commonwealth Office.