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From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Prime Minister

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Secret



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HOME OFFICE
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20 August 1981

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MAN IN THE GROUNDS OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE

You asked for briefing about the incident reported on page 8 of today's "Sun" that a young man was found in the grounds of Buckingham Palace.

We have asked the Metropolitan Police about this. The incident occurred on 5 August when the man, Joseph Larson, aged 24, was found in the grounds by a police officer patrolling the gardens at 9.15 p.m. Larson was taken to Cannon Row Police Station. He was bewildered and incoherent and appeared to suffer from a mental disorder, a view which was confirmed by a police surgeon who diagnosed the classic symptoms of schizophrenia.

Larson was interviewed again on the morning of 6 August and was driven round the Palace perimeter but he would not, or could not, indicate his point of entry. He was not charged with any offence, and the police took him to a mental hospital. They have not interviewed him again.

We have asked the Metropolitan Police for a full, written report on the incident and if anything of further interest arises from this I will let you know.

Yours sincerely
C. J. Walters

C. J. WALTERS

Mike Pattison, Esq.