



File AH

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

PERSONAL

SIR DEREK RAYNER

I attach a copy of a letter which Mr Christopher Gerard, a Principal in the ODA, has sent to the Prime Minister, criticising the running of his department.

The Prime Minister has discussed Mr Gerard's letter briefly with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and has agreed with him that she should see Mr Gerard.

They also decided that before she met Mr Gerard, I should let Sir Peter Preston know what was going on and in particular show him Mr Gerard's letter. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary agreed that they would have another word, with Sir Peter Preston present, when she had seen Mr Gerard.

X I have now spoken to Sir Peter Preston, who thinks that it would be a good thing if the Prime Minister saw Mr Gerard, as she proposes to do. We will now therefore arrange for Mr Gerard to come in.

X The purpose of this minute is to let you know that the Prime Minister would like you to be with her when she sees Mr Gerard. We will therefore be in touch with your office to find a suitable time.

The Prime Minister is particularly anxious that as few people as possible should know about Mr Gerard's approach to her and about her decision to see him. I should accordingly be grateful if no further copies of his letter were made.

JAW.

2 March 1982

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