



15

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 December 1982

The Prime Minister has recently seen JIC(82)8 on "The Soviet threat to the United Kingdom through covert military action". In addition, she saw earlier JIC(82)6 on the Soviet military capability to attack the United Kingdom base. Her attention has also been drawn to JIC(81)17 covering one aspect of the covert threat, namely that of sabotage by Soviet special purpose forces and, as you are aware, there has recently been some discussion of the threat from the non-commercial activities of the Soviet merchant fleet.

B/K
The Prime Minister believes that it would now be useful to have an overall assessment of our ability to counter the Soviet military threat, whether overt or covert. She would be grateful if your Department, in consultation with other interested Departments, could take the lead in producing a report.

I am copying this letter to Richard Hatfield (with reference to Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 15 December).

A. J. COLES

Richard Mottram, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.