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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 January 1984

Dear John,

Mr Donald Rumsfeld

The US Embassy have told us that President Reagan's Special Middle East Envoy, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, plans to be in London on 20 January, and have formally approached us to ask whether the Prime Minister would be willing to receive him. They have suggested a meeting on the afternoon of 20 January. Mr Rumsfeld is also seeking meetings with President Mitterrand and the Italian Prime Minister.

Although Mr Rumsfeld currently has the title of Ambassador, he is also a former US Defence Secretary. He believes that he should, in pursuit of his task, establish contact at head of government level both in the Middle East and elsewhere. Sir Geoffrey Howe would normally expect to see Mr Rumsfeld himself. He will, however, be away for most of 20 January in Stockholm. In these circumstances, he ~~recommends that the Prime Minister should agree to receive Mr Rumsfeld briefly.~~ Mr Rumsfeld has played an influential role in formulating the current policy of cutting Syria down to size, and it is clear that if there is to be any modification in the attitude of the US Government towards the agreement of 17 May between Israel and Lebanon his advice will carry weight. A meeting with the Prime Minister would be an opportunity to remove any misunderstandings Mr Rumsfeld may have about the depth of our anxiety about the role of the MNF in Lebanon. The Prime Minister might also wish to mention to Mr Rumsfeld our concern about the effects on the moderate Arab countries, especially on the position of King Hussein, of the present stagnation in the Middle East peace process.

Sir Geoffrey suggests that the Prime Minister might wish to be accompanied by Mr Luce if she agrees to receive Mr Rumsfeld, and on the assumption that Sir Geoffrey will not himself be back from Stockholm. If Sir Geoffrey were to be back, he would, I think, wish to attend the meeting himself.

Yours ever,  
(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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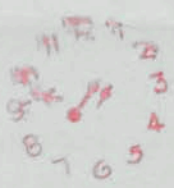


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10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister.

Do you want to see

Mr. Krumpholt at 5.30 p.m.

on Friday?

A. J. C.  $\frac{16}{1}$ .

Yes  
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*From the Private Secretary*

18 January 1984

Mr. Donald Rumsfeld

Thank you for your letter of 16 January.

The Prime Minister could see Mr. Rumsfeld at 1730 hours on Friday, 20 January. I believe that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will have returned from Stockholm by then - the Prime Minister would be grateful if he was able to attend her meeting with Mr. Rumsfeld.

A. J. COLES

P.F. Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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