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THE PRIME MINISTER

27 November, 1984

Dear Mr. Ashdown.

Thank you for your letter of 6 November about a possible CIA operation against British companies in the computer technology field.

The points raised in your letter, and your letter of 27 March to Norman Tebbit, have been carefully examined by the appropriate departments. As Paul Channon told you in his letter of 9 May, allegations about the involvement of the CIA are unsubstantiated. There is no evidence of improper activity by the CIA or that the law has been broken. As you are aware, there is close co-operation between the British and American authorities on the enforcement of multilaterally agreed export controls which is in the national interest.

It follows that there is no need for an inquiry. However, I would naturally expect the police to investigate any substantiated charges that the law had been broken in this country.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Paddy Ashdown, Esq., M.P.

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