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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 April 1985

checked
Tel no passed on 021-553-1001
(B'ham)

A Mr. Howles, of Kerrick and Jefferson, a security printing firm, rang me this morning. He has tendered for a contract to supply national passports to Sri Lanka, and asked if we would ensure the Prime Minister was aware that the Sri Lankan Government were about to decide on where the contract should be placed. I understand the deal will amount to around £1 million. There are three other companies in the competition, one from Italy, one from Singapore and one from another UK-based (though US owned) firm.

I explained it was very late in the day, but that we would consider whether to alert the Prime Minister's party to Mr. Howles' bid. I subsequently discussed with Peter Ricketts and we agreed that it did not seem sensible to provide supplementary briefing on this. You may, however, like to be aware that Mr. Howles did make contact with us, and to know of the contract for which he is tendering.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Peter Ricketts (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

Mark Addison

Andrew Lansley, Esq.,
Department of Trade and Industry.

