

PRIME MINISTER

I have written the attached letter to the Private Secretaries to Cabinet Ministers to pass on your request that there should always be a duty Minister available over Easter. You might like to reinforce this message at the beginning of Cabinet tomorrow.

N.L.W.

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N.L. Wicks

24 March 1986



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

24 March 1986

Dear Joan,

The Easter season sees a number of important conferences and other events during which there may be criticism of Government policy. The Prime Minister believes it highly important for each Department to have a Minister immediately available to rebut any such criticism and to promulgate strong points in the Government's record. The Prime Minister knows that all Departments will have made arrangements for there to be a Minister on duty over Easter and during the following week to deal with these presentational and the policy issues as they arise, but she would be grateful if each Cabinet Minister could pay particular attention to ensuring that the appropriate arrangements are made.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of Cabinet, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely
Nigel Wicks

N.L. Wicks

Miss Joan MacNaughton
Lord President's Office