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CABINET: PROCEDURE

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USE OF OFFICIAL TRANSPORT DURING THE GENERAL ELECTION

Note by the Prime Minister

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OFFICIAL CARS

During the period of the General Election Ministers may continue to use, for official purposes, official cars provided from the Government Car Service or otherwise; but these cars should not be used for journeys connected with the Election. It is also undesirable that a Minister should use an official car, even on official business, in his constituency, except on an occasion when he is unexpectedly called back from his constituency on urgent official business. Those Ministers for whom the security authorities exceptionally consider it essential may continue to use their official cars on a repayment basis for private or party purposes.

AIRCRAFT

2. Similarly, during the period of the General Election, Ministers may continue to travel by air for official purposes in accordance with the normal rules. However, special flights by Ministry of Defence aircraft may not be made for journeys connected with the Election; there is of course no objection to private charter flights which are not paid for out of public funds. A Minister to whom special security considerations apply would only rarely have to make a journey connected with the Election of such urgency that he would wish to use a special flight rather than his official car, and he should not do so without my express permission. It is also undesirable that a Minister should use a special flight, even on official business, on a visit to his constituency, except on an occasion when he is unexpectedly called back from his constituency on official business.

M H T

10 Downing Street

10 May 1983

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

General Election: Procedures for  
Ministers

Thank you for your minute of 10 May (AO83/1327). The Prime Minister has approved the issue of the notes on use of official transport during the General Election and on newspaper articles and interviews. We will await further advice on the note on broadcasting.

FRLB

11 May 1983

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