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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 April 1984

Dear Roger,

Call on the Prime Minister by Dr. von Weizsaecker

Dr. von Weizsaecker had a thirty minute conversation with the Prime Minister before her dinner for him yesterday evening.

He showed considerable interest in the Prime Minister's visit to Hungary. The Prime Minister gave him a general account of her impressions and of her talk with Mr. Kadar. She said that she had found difficulty in persuading the Hungarians (and the Russians during her recent visit to Moscow) that President Reagan and other Western leaders had purely peaceful intentions. Dr. von Weizsaecker said that he was very glad that the Prime Minister had gone to Moscow for Andropov's funeral.

He then spoke about East Germany. He said that since the deployment of INF missiles, the East Germans appeared to have sought increased rather than reduced contacts. These contacts were friendly but their substance was thin. The Federal Republic was puzzled as to why the East Germans were now issuing so many exit permits for their nationals to go to West Germany permanently. The figure for the first three months of this year had been bigger than for any whole year previously. He had been told that seventy doctors had left Dresden alone in the period January to March of this year. He had heard various explanations for all of this but none made sense to him. It was just possible that the East Germans were seeking to prevent a repetition of events earlier this year when a number of East German citizens had taken refuge in Western missions. But the exodus included some of the most talented people. The East German Church had asked the Federal Republic to help stop this flow but clearly that could not happen.

You are
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Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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