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*From the Private Secretary*

12 July 1990

As promised I attach a summary of the response the Prime Minister gave during Questions, and in the Statement that followed, when asked about Mr. Ridley's 'Spectator' interview. You will want to fax these out to him tonight. Bernard Ingham has already spoken to Jean Caines. You will no doubt want to fax out also the front page of tonight's 'Standard'.

DOMINIC MORRIS

Martin Stanley, Esq.,  
Department of Trade and Industry

SUMMARY OF PRIME MINISTER'S REPOSE

To Mr. Kinnock:

"My Right Honourable Friend has expressed his very great regret and has unreservedly withdrawn his remarks ..... Those views - which have been withdrawn - did not represent the Government's views or indeed mine ..... I have always understood that it is the custom of this House that when remarks have been apologised for and unreservedly withdrawn - as they have in this case - that withdrawal is gracefully accepted."

To Mrs. Ewing:

"The Government was prominent in furthering co-operation at the Economic Summit in Houston to the benefit of each and every one of the G7 countries. I have nothing to add to what I said about my RHF who has unreservedly withdrawn his remarks."

Answers identical to those given to Mr. Kinnock were given to Ms. Dawn Primarolo.

To Mr. John Evans, who asked if your Secretary of State could maintain a harmonious relationship with German Trade Ministers and with the European Commissioner for Trade, the Prime Minister said:

"I am satisfied that this country will maintain the advantageous and co-operative relationship in matters of trade, as in other things, in the European Community. In the past eleven years the Government have achieved great things in Europe and we will continue to do so."