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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 March 1987

**DRAFT UK/USSR AGREEMENT ON CO-OPERATION IN
THE STUDY AND EXPLORATION OF OUTER SPACE**

Thank you for your letter of 9 March covering a text of the British counter-draft for a UK/USSR Agreement on Co-operation in the Study and Exploration of Outer Space. The Prime Minister has also seen the Defence Secretary's letter of 5 March to the Foreign Secretary on this subject.

The Prime Minister shares the Defence Secretary's concern about the potential risks of an agreement with the Soviet Union on this subject. She also wonders whether it is likely to have much practical value. She certainly would not wish us to make any significant concessions in order to achieve an agreement. But provided the Russians agree to something very close to our current draft, she would be content for us to go ahead. On this basis the text enclosed with your letter may be sent to Moscow.

I am copying this letter to Trevor woolley (Cabinet Office), John Howe (Ministry of Defence), Timothy Walker (Department of Trade and Industry), Cathy Roberts (Department of Education and Science), Geoff Dart (Department of Energy) and Shirley Stagg (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food).

(C.D. Powell)

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