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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

6 April 1989

Dear Philip

HOME SECRETARY'S APPEARANCE ON QUESTION TIME

The Home Secretary requested briefing on two issues, Westland and an invitation to The Queen to visit the Soviet Union. On the first, I attach

- a minute from the Cabinet Office setting out key references and providing the Lord President with a line to take at Questions today;
- the statement to the press by Sir Leon Brittan confirming that his Channel 4 interview adds nothing to what he said earlier;
- expressions by the Prime Minister of confidence in the officials involved.

Should Mr Gorbachev extend an invitation to The Queen to visit the Soviet Union when he goes to Windsor tomorrow, the agreed press line will be:

'An invitation was extended by Mr Gorbachev to The Queen to visit the Soviet Union. In thanking Mr Gorbachev, Her Majesty explained that the programme for her visits was fixed a number of years in advance. She hoped it would be possible to visit the Soviet Union in due course.'

Please let me know if you require anything further on these issues.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Turnbull

ANDREW TURNBULL

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Home Office

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