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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 September 1983

THE HAGUE: HM AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

During the Prime Minister's visit to The Hague earlier this week, the Netherlands Foreign Minister raised with her over dinner the problem of the Ambassador's residence. He expressed concern that we might be intending to move to another, more modern, residence.

The Prime Minister said to me later that she would like to look at this issue again on her return to London. I had the impression from talking to Philip Mansfield that there had been some new developments, and in particular that we might now be able to purchase the present residence at a very favourable price. The Prime Minister did of course read the brief that was submitted for her visit to The Hague, but I think it would now be helpful if you could consult HM Ambassador about the latest developments and provide some revised advice for the Prime Minister on this matter. I would not expect her to be able to deal with it until she returns from North America at the end of next week.

BF

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