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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 April 1984

The Prime Minister believes that one clear lesson from the crisis in Anglo-Libyan relations which followed the shooting incident in St. James' Square on 17 April 1984 is that the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations is defective. It appears to contain no effective sanction against even a gross abuse of diplomatic privileges, such as the shooting itself. She would be grateful for urgent advice on the prospects for securing international agreement to an amendment of the Convention which would allow the proper authorities in host countries to take action where a gross abuse had occurred.

The St. James' Square incident and its aftermath have also raised questions about the way in which we grant diplomatic status to foreign nationals. In particular:-

- a) How do we decide who should be accredited as a diplomat, and who takes the decision?
- b) Is there any element of reciprocity between the number of diplomats allowed in London, and the number of diplomats which we are allowed in the corresponding foreign capital?
- c) What is the policy on diplomatic status on premises, and why were the Libyans allowed four separate inviolable establishments in London, including a garage?

The Prime Minister would be grateful for advice on these points as soon as possible.

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David Barclay

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