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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

30 April 1984

PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENTS ON EVENTS AT THE  
LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU

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The Prime Minister held a further meeting with Ministers this afternoon to discuss the proposed Parliamentary statements and her reply to Dr. David Owen. The Lord President, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Home Secretary, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Whip, the Minister of State, FCO, (Mr. Luce), Sir Robert Armstrong, Sir Antony Acland, Sir Brian Cubbon and Sir Anthony Duff were present.

The decision was confirmed that there should be two statements tomorrow (Tuesday 1 May) afternoon. Since the Home Secretary's statement would contain reports on developments in St. James's Square which would help the House's understanding of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's statement, it was agreed that the Home Secretary's statement should precede the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's. It was also agreed that the Prime Minister's reply to Dr. Owen's request for an inquiry should be delivered tomorrow morning and made available to the Press at the 1100 Lobby.

Texts of the proposed statements and the letter were discussed. It was agreed that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's statement should contain more factual material about the background of the development of our relations with the Libyan People's Bureau and as firm statements as possible about the Government's future actions in combating international terrorism.

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In particular, it should be announced that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary would discuss these concerns with other Foreign Ministers in the European Community and the Prime Minister would raise the general subject of international terrorism during the London Economic Summit. A reference should also be included in the statement to the efforts being made to secure the release of Mr. Leddingham.

It was also agreed that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Home Office should co-ordinate the provision of a fact sheet covering the development of our relations with the Libyan People's Bureau and demonstrations and other significant events in the period leading up to 17 April.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to those who attended the meeting.

Robin Butler

Len Appleyard, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.