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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 April, 1984

The Prime Minister has seen the exchange of correspondence between your Secretary of State, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office about defence sales to Libya. Mrs. Thatcher's preliminary view is that set out in Mr. Luce's letter of 26 April. The reason for the revocation of export licences for defence sales to Libya is that the Libyans fired on civilians and on our security forces in the streets of London; in her view, this cannot be termed a "political" reason. Nevertheless, the Prime Minister considers that we must look carefully at the outstanding orders and the legal consequences of revocation before deciding finally.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Peter Ricketts (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Hugh Taylor (Home Office), Michael Reidy (Department of Energy), Hayden Warren-Gash (Mr. Luce's Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

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