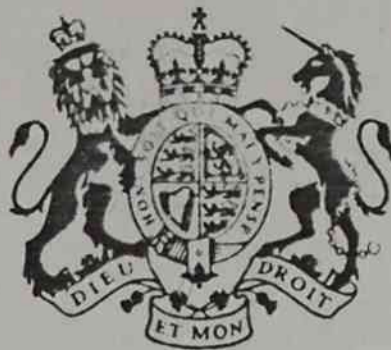


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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 January 1983

Arms Control and Disarmament

When the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary called on the Prime Minister this morning, he expressed the view that we were in danger of losing the battle with public opinion about this subject. He thought, in particular, that current television coverage was not very favourable to the Government. A number of members of the Government had been tasked to take an interest in this matter but there appeared to be a need for a master-mind to handle the whole campaign. This would need to be somebody who could devote a good deal of time to the matter and should consequently probably be somebody who did not have departmental responsibilities.

The Prime Minister agreed that Mr. Pym should discuss this problem with Mr. Parkinson and also said that she would probably want to have a word about it herself with Mr. Parkinson and Mr. Biffen in the fairly near future.

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.