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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

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7 December 1982

Compensation for Victims of Terrorism

The Prime Minister had a brief meeting with your Secretary of State, the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in her room in the House of Commons after Questions today.

Mrs Thatcher said that she expected renewed Parliamentary interest in the question of compensation for those who suffered from terrorist attacks. Mr. Nott said that he expected to see an internal paper on some aspects of this question shortly. The Home Secretary said that there were some particular problems affecting the police which he would be discussing separately with Mr. Nott.

The Prime Minister would be grateful for a clear, factual paper distinguishing between the legislative provisions covering compensation for soldiers and civilians who have suffered from acts of terrorism in Northern Ireland, soldiers and civilians who have been similarly affected on the mainland and any special provisions affecting the police. It would also be helpful if the same paper could, for comparative purposes, describe the provision for compensating those who suffered loss or injury in the Falklands campaign.

I am aware that briefing on some of the elements listed above has been provided for the Prime Minister before. But it would be a great help if all the necessary information could be brought together in one short paper. Since these matters could be raised at Prime Minister's Question time on Thursday, I should be most grateful if you, in consultation with the Home Office and, as necessary, the Northern Ireland Office, could let us have such a paper by close of play on 8 December.

I am copying this letter to John Halliday (Home Office) and John Lyon (Northern Ireland Office).

A. J. COLES

Richard Mottram, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.