



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Prime Minister.

A.S.C. 16/2.

Thursday February 16

MS

Dear Prime Minister,

Very many
congratulations on what you have
achieved in Budapest and Moscow;
the impact here has been admirable.

It is irritating to hear D. Steel
and D. Healey talk on the radio as if
this represented a change of mind.
Timing is of course crucial, and Britain
had. have been in no position to take
initiatives in E.-W. relations if we had
followed their advice on Cruise etc. It is
only because ~~the~~ we and the Alliance
have been steadfast that we are now in
a good position to talk.

And of course there is no contradiction
between warning of the evils of the

Soviet system and discussing
Serious matters with them. They
expect this, and practise something
similar in return. The fact that we
want at the right time to negotiate
with them is no reason for holding our
tongues on Afghanistan, human rights
etc.

Forgive these ~~stupid~~ obvious points,
but a good deal of comment ignores them.
Otherwise, I promise I am keeping
my head deep in the Police Bill!

} over,

Doug →

No reply needed.