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REGISTRY No. 72
22 OCT 1975
AM 3/48 H

Secretary of State (100)
has seen
The Times 20/10

PA
29/10

PUS

Mr. McCaffrey suggested that I might write to Mrs Thatcher on Cosgrave's article in this week's Spectator and I have dictated the attached note. I have deliberately kept the area narrow and have not gone into questions raised in the latter part of the article. As this is to a large extent a matter concerning the staff, I would like your reactions to my proposed letter and also I would be glad if you would apply your skill of draftsmanship to its contents.

JR

(JAMES CALLAGHAN)
17 October 1975

I submit a redraft which I have discussed with Mr Sykes.

Thomas Binela

17.10.75

Private Secretary



N.A.D. : Mr. Smith
- to enter.

PS/PUS

(161)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

L. de Kew

London SW1A 2AH

17 October 1975

Mr. Thatcher

17/X

RECEIVED IN
REGISTRY No. 72
20 OCT 1975
AM3/487

LAST PAPER
PA 24/10

*noted
MS 24/10
17.11.75
of.*

1/10/75

PUS has written to

Sir P. Ramsebottom.

20.10

attached.

I have read an article in "The Spectator" dated 18 October on page 492 which says that it is clear that the Foreign Office and particularly the British Embassy in Washington did nothing whatever to extend even the ordinary courtesy of advice and assistance to you during your recent visit to the United States.

I find it difficult to believe this. It has always been customary for our Embassies to give advice and assistance to the Leader of the Opposition on the occasion of visits such as the one you made to the United States. A member of your staff telephoned to the North American Department of this Office after your return to express appreciation of the help that had been given to you.

So I am writing to enquire whether you have any complaints to make about lack of courtesy or advice or assistance, and if so I should be ready to look into them closely and to let you know the result. If not, I should appreciate your letting the Editor of "The Spectator" know that you regard as unfounded his statement that you had received less

/ than

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP.



than the ordinary courtesy of advice and assistance. If you were so disposed to set the record straight as regards the help you yourself received from the Ambassador and his staff, I should be grateful.

I receive many expressions of appreciation from members on all sides of the House of the help that is given to them by our Embassies when they are abroad: and it would certainly be contrary to my desire if such help was not willingly and freely given.

(JAMES CALLAGHAN)