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Press Office.

PRIME MINISTER

Polaris Successor - Announcement

I have discussed the presentation of this policy development with Ministry of Defence today and would like to secure your agreement to our recommendations. These are governed by the need to make the best use of the very limited time that will be available for the briefing of the media and radio and TV interviews.

The recommendations, based on the assumption that you will make the statement to the House, are:

- Defence correspondents to be invited to MOD at 3.30 to receive copies of your statement and the supporting memorandum and to be given an opportunity, without the option of leaving, of reading those documents and listening to a feed from the House of your statement and questioning; this would be followed by an unattributable briefing from the Permanent Secretary and supporting officials;
- the Secretary of State for Defence to record interviews for BBC Radio and TV, ITN and IRN between the conclusion of your statement and the main early evening news bulletins, i.e. between 5 and 6 p.m;
- the Secretary of State for Defence to brief the Lobby, if it can be so arranged, say, for half an hour from 6 p.m. to ensure that they get the right political steer;
- the interested and expert resident foreign press to be briefed, as required and according to the judgment of the Ministry of Defence, by the Ministry;

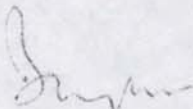
*Do I have to make the statement?*

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- the Ministry of Defence to organise, as required and according to its judgment, supplementary briefings on subsequent days for resident foreign journalists.

Are you content with these provisional arrangements and, more especially, for the Secretary of State for Defence to talk on radio and TV on the evening of the announcement? I personally see no alternative, given the time constraints, to Mr. Pym taking the full brunt of radio and TV if we are properly to explain the announcement to the nation.



B. INGHAM

2 July, 1980

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