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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 December 1983

Dear Lady Cox

I was sorry to read your letter of 29 October. Like Keith, I deeply regret the unauthorised disclosure of internal papers which has occurred in this case. The record has now been put straight with the written statement to Parliament of 28 November.

The reasons for deferring a decision on your research application were given in Keith's letter of 19 October. I understand that he has now set in hand an urgent review of the possibilities for further research in this area, and that he hopes to be able to consider the outcome early in the New Year.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

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The Baroness Cox and Dr. John Marks

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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 December 1983

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Dear Keith,

Thank you for your letter of 9 December about Caroline Cox and John Marks and their research.

I am pleased that you have been able to set the record straight. In these exceptional circumstances, it was absolutely right to give the House a written statement of the Department's views on the research work of the National Council for Educational Standards.

It is also encouraging to learn that your Department is now urgently assessing possibilities for further research before deciding whether to commit public funds to it. Like you, I hope that it will be possible to consider the outcome early in the New Year, since I understand that the NCES's need for funds is very pressing indeed.

Yours  
Lionel  
Raymond

The Rt. Hon. Sir Keith Joseph, Bt., M.P.

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