

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT

Arts + American

10 DOWNING STREET

ex. Master set

From the Private Secretary

6 February 1981

Thank you for providing briefing about the Leicester Codex for the Prime Minister's meeting yesterday with Dr. Hammer. The Prime Minister had a brief word with Dr. Hammer about it at the start. Dr. Hammer is clearly most disappointed with the Reviewing Committee recommendation, and believes that it is not well founded. He nevertheless appreciates that Mr. Channon will wish to have the opportunity to confirm that there is no public collection in this country which has both the funds and the inclination to seek to acquire the Codex, and that an export licence will not be granted until Mr. Channon has satisfied himself of this.

I understand that Dr. Hammer has arranged that the Codex should be available to any public collection who might want to exhibit it. I believe that Occidental also have a few copies of the detailed catalogue prepared by Christies, which would similarly be made available.

We will need to speak further about this before your Minister makes a public announcement of his response to the recommendations of the Reviewing Committee. You will no doubt be in touch with me.

M. A. PATTISON

Miss Mary Giles,  
Department of Education and Science.

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