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cc Sir P. Chadeck

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Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

May Mr. Rifkind quote
you in the way?

London SW1A 2AH

27 February 1984

Jan Jh

A.S.C. 2 1/2.

Yes mb

Oral Message from the Prime Minister to the
Heads of State of Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ghana

The Prime Minister may wish to know that Mr Rifkind will be visiting Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ghana from 29 February to 6 March. It will be his first visit to West Africa. Mr Rifkind has confirmed appointments with the Heads of State of all these countries and it would add useful impact to these meetings if he were able to give each Head of State a personal oral message from the Prime Minister, especially since it is some time since a British Minister visited their capitals (in the case of Conakry, at least twenty years).

The messages would start with a general expression of goodwill and then be tailored to the recipient; thus for President Stevens a renewal of thanks for the way he stood by us during the Falklands conflict, and hopes that Sierra Leone's agreement with the IMF will help economic recovery; for President Sekou Toure good wishes for his forthcoming presidency of the OAU (at which he is expected to be a force for moderation); and for Fl Lt Rawlings, encouragement to continue his courageously tough economic policies (in cooperation with the IMF) and his rapprochement with the West.

The Prime Minister may be surprised that Nigeria does not figure on Mr Rifkind's itinerary. He had wanted to go there, but the Nigerians regretted that the proposed timing was difficult, as the Foreign Minister would be away.

[Handwritten signature]
(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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Sierra Leone
Relations



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 February, 1984

MR RIFKIND'S VISIT TO SIERRA LEONE,
GUINEA AND GHANA

The Prime Minister agrees that when Mr. Rifkind visits the above countries he may speak as proposed in your letter of 27 February.

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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