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*From the Private Secretary*

11 January 1988

CONTACTS WITH CANADA

Thank you for your letter of 8 January conveying the Foreign Secretary's suggestion that the Prime Minister might invite Mr. Mulroney to visit London at some point this year, notably if there is a NATO Summit in the spring.

If there is to be a NATO Summit, the Prime Minister thinks that our first priority must be to invite President Reagan to stop over in London. Only when we know whether and when the President would wish to take up this invitation should we consider extending an invitation to Mr. Mulroney as well.

The Prime Minister has commented that she doubts the wisdom of talking to Mr. Clark ahead of the meeting of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on South Africa since this might give the impression that we wish to be in some way associated, however indirectly, with its proceedings. In her view, we should have nothing to do with it. She noted that neither President Moi nor President Babangida made any mention of it to her.

CHARLES POWELL

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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