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Soviet union  
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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 July 1980

CSCE

The Prime Minister has seen and taken note of your letter to me of 8 July, and its enclosure, on the CSCE Review Meeting in Madrid.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

G. G. H. Walden, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister (2)

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8 July 1980

Dear Michael,

*mt*

CSCE

Thank you for your letter of 20 June recording the Prime Minister's comment that our approach to the CSCE Review Meeting in Madrid seemed too much like 'business as usual', and that we should show clearly in Madrid our disapproval of Soviet action in Afghanistan.

There has never been any doubt here of the importance of guarding against giving the impression either to the Soviet Union, or to our own opinion, that we are prepared to do 'business as usual' at Madrid, or to avoid dealing fully at that Meeting with the Soviet actions in Afghanistan. You may have seen, for example, our Guidance telegram No 58 of the same date as your letter (copy enclosed for convenience), notably paragraphs 2(b), 3 and 4 on Afghanistan and 5 on Human Rights. Our disapproval of the Soviet actions in Afghanistan has also been made very clear in the latest report to the House of Commons on Soviet and Eastern European Implementation of the Helsinki Final Act, which appeared in Hansard on 2 July. The points which the Prime Minister has made will be reflected further in a memorandum on our policy for the Madrid Meeting which we shall be submitting to the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee by the middle of this month.

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*see*  
*file*

(G G H Walden)  
Private Secretary

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