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cc: Sir A. Parsons

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 May 1983

Dear Brian,

ANTI-AMERICANISM

Thank you for your letter of 18 May which the Prime Minister saw on her way to Williamsburg.

You will see from my separate letter about the Prime Minister's talks with President Reagan that while she expressed concern to the President about the size of the US budget deficit and the implications of the Export Administration Act - two of the current issues which lead to criticism in this country of the United States - she did not raise the question of anti-Americanism in general.

The Prime Minister told me that she had reached the conclusion that it would be a mistake to broach the general question with the US Administration. In her extensive visits to parts of the United Kingdom in recent weeks she had formed the impression that anti-Americanism was by no means a widespread phenomenon and was perhaps confined to a rather narrow circle. In general, public opinion responded positively to vigorous emphasis on the American contribution to the defence and well-being of the free world.

She is therefore not inclined to pursue the suggestion for promoting a dialogue with the US Administration on this matter.

I am copying this letter to John Kerr (HM Treasury) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

John Colles.

Brian Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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