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28 March 1985

*Michael Heseltine*

*CD/14-*

STATEMENT ON THE DEFENCE ESTIMATES

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 13 March.

I have no points to make on the text itself, but I believe that a clear re-affirmation of our Trident policy is very necessary. I hope that in briefing and speaking notes prepared for the Defence Estimates this can be underlined.

There is a clear feeling abroad, both in the House of Commons and outside in the country, that Trident is an optional extra. I am anxious to counter the growing argument which proposes that Trident becomes unnecessary if we go into Star Wars.

I am copying this letter to Cabinet Colleagues, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours ever*  
*John Selwyn Gummer*  
JOHN SELWYN GUMMER

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP  
Secretary of State for Defence  
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SW1

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