



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

You could see him

London SW1A 2AH

at 1700 on Tuesday, 1

November.

4 October 1983

Do you want to?

Will do - briefly.

mt

Dear Sir,

A.F.C. $\frac{5}{10}$.

The Japanese ex-Finance Minister, Mr Michio Watanabe, will be in London between 31 October and 3 November as a guest of the government and has asked to pay a courtesy call on the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister will remember meeting Mr Watanabe in Tokyo during her Far East tour in September 1982. I understand that his frank and direct manner made an excellent impression.

Mr Watanabe was Minister for Finance for two years until November 1982. He is considered one of the small group of "new leaders" who could rise to be Prime Minister within the next decade. He has close links with both the Nakasone faction, which he may soon rejoin, and the powerful Tanaka faction in the Liberal Democratic Party. He is almost bound to regain ministerial office shortly, although not necessarily as Finance Minister.

Mr Watanabe is to call on the Foreign Secretary, whom he met on several occasions when Sir G Howe was Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)

Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 October, 1983

MR WATANABE

Thank you for your letter of 4 October about the former Finance Minister of Japan. The Prime Minister has agreed to see him briefly at 1700 hrs on Tuesday, 1 November. I should be grateful if you would let me have a brief in due course.

A L COLES

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

RESTRICTED

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J.E. Holmes', located in the bottom right corner of the page.