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From the Principal Private Secretary

17 June 1980

*Dear Bossin,*

POLARIS SUCCESSOR: MEMORANDUM

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's minute MO 18/1/1 of 10 June 1980, together with the draft memorandum on the choice of a system to succeed Polaris. She has also seen the Home Secretary's minute of 11 June, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's minute of 12 June and the Chancellor of the Exchequer's minute of 16 June.

The Prime Minister agrees in principle with Mr. Pym's wish to publish a reasoned account of the Government's decision, though she thinks that it would be useful if he could consider whether some of the detail could be left out, as the Home Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have suggested. She would be grateful if the Defence Secretary would settle directly with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer the drafting points which they have both raised.

As regards the feelings of the French, however, she has commented that we need not feel too sensitive about not consulting them, since President Giscard did not respond when the Prime Minister raised with him the subject of Anglo-French nuclear cooperation when he was here at the end of last year.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Chilcot (Home Office), George Walden (FCO), John Wiggins (Treasury) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

*Yours now,*

*Alan Whitehead.*

B.M. Norbury, Esq.,  
Ministry of Defence.

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