

Prime Minister.

To see.

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Defence



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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3rd November 1980

Dear Clive,

You may recall fairly recently that the Prime Minister required some follow up action within MOD on the subject of sales opportunities in Qatar. As I raised the matter in the first place I thought it would be in order if I gave you a quick status report.

AUS (Sales) Peter Jeffs was sent to Qatar to form a view and he has confirmed the opportunities - particularly in relation to the integrated air defence systems - but that more work has still to be done by our industry to get our proposals into shape. In the near future we will be in a position to consider Ministerial

intervention = the shape of a visit. Even
Strathcona is considering visiting Saudi Arabia this
month so perhaps he could combine Qatar with
Saudi.

I notice incidentally that the point about
Ministerial involvement = sales (albeit Senior
Ministerial involvement) was mentioned again in an article
= yesterday's 'Sunday Telegraph'.

On the Warrick Collins affair you will be pleased
to know that a letter inviting him here for a mini
symposium has gone from me with a copy to John
Hosblyns.

On the Queens Flight I hope to have the
economic case = the P.M.'s box (via you) by close of
play Friday. I am having the question of relocating
the new Communications Flight away from Northolt looked
at so that we can consider disposal of that
airfield - I sure the ~~£~~4M a year it costs to run.
My discussions with the ^{RAF} sharp end operators rather
than the RAF top brass indicate very strongly



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that a very sensible rationalisation of the VIP
flying scene can be carried through once the
re-equipment question has been resolved. Where
Northolt is concerned certain civil jet operators are
very interested = greater use by them - & the airfield
is less utilised at the moment.

As far as the two BAe 1-11 aircraft are
concerned, in confidence, I gather that BAe have
received letters of intent from a Saudi company
& an American company so before very long the
decision will be made for us.

Yours
for ever

John