

PRIME MINISTER

EXOCETS

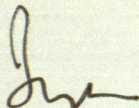
D/Trade tell me that a number of newspapers, but notably the D/Mail, have been trying to fault your press conference exposition today of the UK contribution to Exocet missiles.

Aerospatiale, Plessey and an unnamed trade expert have been lending credence to the idea that you got it all wrong.

David Woods, D/Trade Press Office, tells me they have informed journalists that you were substantially correct in your exposition, though some of your words may not have been strictly accurate.

You referred to the "firing mechanism". D/Trade are referring to a Naval display system which is part of the fire guidance control system.

The difference appears wholly pedantic, and that is the flavour of Government guidance.



B. INGHAM

3 June 1983