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WESTLAND HELICOPTERS

We spoke on the telephone about the further steps needed if the European consortium (acting in all probability with British Aerospace) are to be in a position to put forward final proposals by the Committee's deadline of Friday. We agreed that our officials would work closely together.

I understand from their merchant bank adviser that the European consortium are at present hampered in putting forward a firm bid by the unwillingness of the Westland Board to reveal to them financial and workload information. Clearly, within the spirit of the E(A) discussion last night it would be right to ask the Westland Board now to make available this information on the same basis as it is being made available to Sikorsky/Fiat. Moreover, it would seem to be in Westland's own interest and that of their shareholders and their banks that this information should be disclosed in order properly to establish the alternatives on offer. You suggested that there might be difficulties over making available certain commercially

The Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP



sensitive information but I am sure this is not an insuperable problem. Our officials could, together with Westland, look at any problem areas.

I am hoping to see Sir John Cuckney later today for a general discussion and will raise this problem with him then, as we agreed. Anything you and your people can do to encourage Westland to provide this information would also, of course, be most helpful.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yes  
MHS

Michael Heseltine