

file

DSC



CC MOD
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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 December 1985

Dear Sir John,

Thank you for your letter of 13 December. I am grateful to you for letting me know of the Board's decision.

As regards the National Armaments Directors' recommendation of 29 November 1985, the position was made clear by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in his statement to Parliament yesterday.

It is obviously important that there should be co-operation between key defence contractors and the Ministry of Defence, and I hope that will continue to be the case with Westland. So far as Blackhawk is concerned, as United Technologies are aware there is currently no Ministry of Defence requirement for these and no provision in the defence budget to buy Blackhawk or any comparable helicopter.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Staites

Sir John Cuckney



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 December 1985

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your telegram to her of yesterday and to reply on her behalf.

The Prime Minister was grateful to you for letting her know your views, but feels that it is not really appropriate for her to meet those involved in bid situations. You will no doubt be in touch with the Trade and Industry Secretary if there are matters which you wish to pursue further with the Government.

CHARLES POWELL

Alan Edgar Bristow, Esq., O.B.E.