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Minister of State  
for Defence Procurement

D/MIN/GP/21/4

15 February 1984

Prime Minister

Dear Prime Minister

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A.F.C. 15/2

At the weekend I attended the Wehrkunde Conference on International Security which takes place annually in Munich. I took advantage of my being there to call on the Minister-President of Bavaria, mainly to discuss the role of the German aerospace industry, which is largely based round Munich, in the international collaboration planned for the Future European Fighter Aircraft; but inevitably the conversation turned to the A320.

I told Dr Strauss that we were close to a decision and that final negotiations with British Aerospace were in train. On launch aid I explained that we were sympathetic in principle but always took account of the financial contribution that the firm requesting the aid was prepared to make. Dr Strauss said that he understood our position, but he believed sales depended on there being a family of aircraft and that the prospects of exporting the A310 would be greatly improved if the A320 went ahead.

In conclusion, Dr Strauss asked me to thank you for your recent letter to him about the A320 and to pass on his warmest good wishes to you.

Yours sincerely  
Geoffrey Pattie

Geoffrey Pattie

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP