



MO 20/17/7

PRIME MINISTERBNFL PRE-1971 WASTES

*with AT?*  
The Chief Secretary sent me a copy of his minute to you dated 4th April. I agree, as Peter says, that his minute sets out the issues before us and I share his regret that the question has had to come back to you.

2. I do, however, wish to reinforce my strongly held view that the Defence Budget should not be required to take on board 80% of the costs involved without additional funds being made available for the purpose. My department has discharged its legal liability in this matter once already. The commitment is over a long period and the costs are not small. The transaction will be visible to Parliament and, by diverting funds from defence purposes, can in my view only strengthen the claims of those who are already arguing that, with the ending of our commitment to NATO's 3% aim, we are devoting insufficient resources to sustaining the capability of our conventional forces.

3. I am sending copies of this minute to the Chief Secretary, the Secretaries of State for Energy and Environment, the Lord President and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*WJW*  
Ministry of Defence  
15th April 1985





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