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B/F for copy reply.

11 June 1982

I enclose a letter to the Prime Minister from Mr. H.J. Deller, Works Convenor at the Kingston Division of British Aerospace. He encloses a letter which he has written to your Secretary of State. I should be grateful if your reply could acknowledge his letter to the Prime Minister.

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W. F. S. RICKETT

D.T. Piper, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

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11 June 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 4 June.

This is receiving attention and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

W. F. S. RICKETT

H.J. Deller, Esq.

British Aerospace
PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

ADFL:d1h

4 June 1982

The Rt Hon Mrs M Thatcher
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London

Aircraft Group
KINGSTON-BROUGH DIVISION

Richmond Road
Kingston-upon-Thames
Surrey KT2 5QS

Telephone: 01-546 7741
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Dear Prime Minister

I am enclosing, for your personal information, a copy of a letter I have sent to Secretary of State for Defence, Mr John Nott.

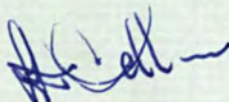
As Works Convenor at Kingston, where we manufacture Harrier and Sea Harrier, I am very conscious of how busy you are because of the Falklands crisis.

We hope you will have some little time to give consideration to the points raised in my letter to Mr Nott which seeks support from the Defence Ministry to urgently place the RAF Hawk Sidewinder programme in Industry (as opposed to being undertaken by the RAF) which would greatly help preserve jobs.

This Division of British Aerospace - the Corporation's second largest, and is involved almost 100 per cent in defence equipment manufacture - is undergoing the run-down of two of our six factories due to the curtailment of RAF support contracts. Understandably, there is a great deal of nervousness and uncertainty amongst all our employees about the future.

Perhaps you could give some little time to consider our case.

Yours sincerely



H.J. Deller
Works Convenor

27/5

British Aerospace

PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

ADFL/HJD/d1h

27 May 1982

The Rt Hon John Nott, M.P.
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

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Dear Mr Nott

We all appreciate the pressures and strains for you personally at this time of national crisis and I am very conscious of this in asking for your consideration of our industrial difficulties and for help in alleviating them.

You may already be aware from your colleagues in Government and the Conservative Party of the grave concern in the Kingston and Dunsfold factories of British Aerospace, about the worsening employment position.

We have sought the assistance of our local M.P.s (Messrs David Howell, Toby Jessell, Norman Lamont, Cranley Onslow, Mr A Hamilton and Sirs Anthony Royle and Nigel Fisher) in making a convincing case for these two factories to undertake the war-role conversion of RAF Hawk aircraft.

The next 18 months to two years will be a critical period in terms of work-load for this Division of BAe and an early decision to allow industry to carry out the conversion programme will provide us with a vital work input to sustain present employment levels.

Already this Division is faced with a loss of 1200 jobs and the closure of two factories by next April. The two sites concerned, Bitteswell near Coventry and Holme on Spalding Moor, North Humberside, have been severely affected by the reduction in defence expenditure on maintenance and refurbishment programmes such as Vulcan, Shackleton, Phantom and Buccaneer.

As Convenor of the Works Unions at Kingston and Dunsfold, may I again stress to you the importance of fresh work for these two Surrey factories.

A decision now to return RAF Hawks to us for the Sidewinder conversion programme would sustain employment until the expected upturn in export orders and, particularly, the future work from the UN Navy's selection of Hawk for the VTXTS programme.

Cont'd/ . . .

British Aerospace

PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

ADFL:HJD:dlh

27 May 1982

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Letter to Rt Hon J Nott, M.P. Cont'd/ . . .

World recession and the slump in world sales has hit us badly. Even recently, an imminent contract for Hawk from Venezuela was suddenly affected by the Falklands crisis and we are now bitterly disappointed that this order could be lost.

While we realise your thoughts must be almost totally concentrated on the South Atlantic, we would ask you to sympathetically consider our case.

In the matter of the Falklands conflict, you can be assured that my members involved in Harrier manufacture and direct support of the Task Force will continue to react promptly to whatever demands are made by the situation.

In the past seven weeks or so, the workforce at Kingston and Dunsfold have worked evenings, weekends and holiday weekends to ensure supplies to our Forces; this support will continue to be guaranteed.

I take this opportunity, Mr Nott, to thank you in anticipation of your consideration of our case. Our thoughts are with the Task Force and we hope for the crisis to be brought to a speedy and successful conclusion.

Yours faithfully

H.J. Deller
Works Convenor