

W. Rickett, Esq

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WITH  
THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE  
PRIVATE SECRETARY

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PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
~~FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ROYAL AIR FORCE~~  
for Defence Procurement

US of S(DP) 3/8

18th June 1982

H J Deller Esq  
Works Convenor  
British Aerospace PLC  
Aircraft Group  
Kingston - Brough Division  
Richmond Road  
Kingston upon Thames  
Surrey KT2 5QS

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Dear Bert

You wrote on 27th May 1982 to the Secretary of State about the war role conversion of Hawk aircraft, and also sent a copy of your letter to the Prime Minister for her personal attention. You also sent a copy of your letter to me and as this is a procurement matter I have been asked to acknowledge and reply to these letters.

As you know, although development work was largely completed last year we had to delay going ahead with the rest of the programme because of cash limits on the defence budget. We have however now just given authorisation for the manufacture of the modification kits to proceed and this should provide some immediate work for the Aircraft Group of British Aerospace.

The question of the embodiment of the modification kits into RAF aircraft is more complex. This embodiment work could be undertaken either in industry or in RAF Support Command. In assessing where to place it we must have regard to a number of factors, not least of which is cost, but the points you make in your letter about the Kingston and Dunsford factories and their work-loads will, of course, be given full weight in the assessment. I must point out that similar considerations also apply to RAF Support Command. I expect a decision on this matter shortly.

You mentioned also the Falklands conflict. John Nott and I are very much aware of, and grateful for, the exceptional

response of the workforces both at British Aerospace and elsewhere, in support of our Forces in the South Atlantic. The welcome and successful outcome has been assured by a truly magnificent national effort of which all involved can rightly be proud.

*John*

*Geoffrey Pattie*

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(GEOFFREY PATTIE)

25 JUN 1962



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