



File Kb

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

29 July 1983

As you know, Cabinet decided on 28 July that your Secretary of State should arrange for officials to produce a report on those areas of defence technology on which a national capability should be maintained. The Prime Minister indicated in her summing up of the discussion that officials from the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry should be involved in preparing this report.

The Prime Minister has asked me to say that she would like an official from her Policy Unit to be added to the Group producing the report, and hopes that your Secretary of State will have no difficulties with this. The official from our Policy Unit whom the Prime Minister would like to join your Group is Nicholas Owen. Perhaps the relevant official in your Department could get in touch with him.

I am copying this letter to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

WR

Richard Mottram, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

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Harm / Aaron

10 DOWNING STREET

Wilkie Rickett

~~Robin~~

I agree.

FRB

This seems the 1.8.

best way of dealing
with the policy units
request.

LM

1/8

OLD

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Mr Coles

Defence Technology

Would it be possible, do you think, to secure a place for the Policy Unit on the study of defence technologies essential to retain in the UK?

Mich Owen

29/7

cf no



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Telephone 01-218 2111/3 (Direct Dialling)
01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

MO 26/1

22nd August 1983

r. Mr. Rickett - to see
2. Fitz
Dear Robin, (or)

Thank you for your letter of 29th July in which you told us that the Prime Minister would like Mr Nicholas Owen from her Policy Unit to take part in the study on the areas of defence technology in which a national capability should be maintained. Mr Heseltine has now seen your letter and I can confirm that he would have no objection to Mr Owen participating in the study. The MOD official who is leading the study is Dr Geoffrey Pope, the Deputy Controller and Adviser (Research and Technology) and I will ensure that his office makes contact with Mr Owen in order to make detailed arrangements.

Yours ever

Nich Evans

(N H R EVANS)
Private Secretary

F E R Butler Esq

Office
March '83,
Procurement
of Weapon Systems



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H. Rickett

WM 3/8

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3 August 1983

Sir Robert Armstrong

NATIONAL CAPABILITY IN DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

I saw the Prime Minister's decision following the Cabinet discussion on the defence suppression weapon to ask for a group of officials to produce a report on those areas of defence technology where national capability should be maintained, and that such a group should be inter-Departmental involving DTI and the Treasury. The involvement of DTI suggests that this group will need to take account of the potential benefits in civil industry of different areas of defence technology, and this brings it very close to matters which currently interest ACARD and the Science and Technology Secretariat in the Cabinet Office.

2. I therefore phoned Professor Norman, Chief Scientific Adviser in the Ministry of Defence, to ask whether I could be a member of the group, since I believe it is necessary to follow through the working of the group if I am to give satisfactory advice subsequently when the matter comes to Cabinet or is raised in the context of other decisions - for example in DTI.

3. I gather that MoD have no objection to this request and that the Permanent Secretary will be writing to you to ask if you wish to nominate anyone from the Cabinet Office to serve on the group. I request that you nominate me and I recognise that you may also wish to nominate a member of the OD Secretariat, but we would serve separate functions on the group.

4. I have also seen a copy of Willie Rickett's letter to Richard Mottram dated 29 July, asking that Nicholas Owen from the No 10 Policy Unit serves on the group. Again, I do not believe there is

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any overlap between his function and mine.

RBN

ROBIN B NICHOLSON
Chief Scientific Adviser

cc: Mr Goodall
→ Mr Rickett

DEFENCE : Harm / Alarm

March 1983

25/3/83