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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
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30 March 1984

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h-a.

Dear David

OD: ITS SUB COMMITTEES AND OFFICIAL COMMITTEES

The Secretary of State for Transport is not a member of OD or its sub-committees (other than OD(T)), and officials of this Department do not belong to many of the supporting Committees. Because of our close involvement in EC affairs, you have kept us closely in touch with the work of OD(E), and we attend, on an ad hoc basis, EQ(S) and EQ(O).

The transfer of shipping, marine and aviation responsibilities to this Department has, however, extended the range of subjects, handled by OD, in which the Secretary of State for Transport has a direct or close interest. The areas concerned include:

Trade Policy - most UK trade in goods goes by sea; the UK shipping industry is an important international service industry; and shipping policy is an international issue of increasing importance, both multilaterally (eg UNCTAD) and bilaterally. A substantial volume of goods is also carried by air, but aviation relations are predominantly bilateral.

Law of the Sea - notably navigational issues; the territorial sea; pollution; and use of the sea and seabed.

Defence Planning - the use of Merchant Shipping, Civil Aviation, Ports and inland transport in times of emergency and war.

EC Issues - apart from our obvious concern with direct EC transport issues involving all forms of transport, we have a particularly close interest in competition policy; rights of establishment; the right to provide services; and in the broad Community Budget questions.

I am concerned that the Secretary of State for Transport should have opportunity to comment on such issues should they come to OD or any of its sub-committees, and I would be grateful if you would ensure that this point is registered, and that we are told in good time of any discussions about such matters. It would also be helpful if Private Secretaries to members of OD could keep an eye open for points that could concern this Department.

I am copying this to those Private Secretaries concerned and would be grateful if they could ensure that appropriate senior officials also see it. Perhaps you could ensure that any of your Cabinet Office colleagues who ought to see it do so.

yours sincerely

Henry Derwent

H C S DERWENT
Private Secretary