

W.040

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16 January 1985

PRIME MINISTER

ANGLO-GERMAN SUMMIT - SPACE STATION

Although your meeting with Chancellor Kohl comes before the E(A) meeting on Space when the decision on whether or not the UK should participate in the US Manned Space Station programme will be taken, you may feel that there would be value in taking the initiative by raising the following four points with Chancellor Kohl:

- (a) The UK interest lies in providing a free-flying platform as part of the German/Italian "Columbus" Space Station module. Anglo-German collaboration on Columbus would be generally helpful to the Germans and also in their current effort to resist an expensive French rival project called "Hermes" - a mini US Shuttle which fits on top of the Ariane launcher.
- (b) We know that the German aerospace industry would welcome British Aerospace's participation and expertise in Columbus (they're not too happy about working with the Italians!). You could stress the critical role which you expect UK private sector industry to play in the funding and technical decision-making in any UK participation in the Space Station programme.
- (c) In turn, UK industry participation will depend on taking the prime role in the free-flying platform - the Germans clearly expect to take the prime role in the systems architecture of Columbus and the Italians in the provision for manned occupation of the module.
- (d) The Continentals tend to under-estimate the UK's place in space technology because of our relatively small

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Government expenditure compared with theirs and our virtual absence from the glamorous ESA launcher programme. It would be worth stressing our excellent track record in satellites, communications and scientific payloads where we are second only to the USA, also our determination to remain a leader in space technology whether through space station or otherwise.

2. Of course, point (d) will be made simply by raising the matter of space, rather than waiting for Chancellor Kohl to raise it, and hence counteract the widespread view in Germany that the UK is not a serious partner in space activities.

3. I am copying this minute to Sir Robert Armstrong.

RBN

ROBIN NICHOLSON
Chief Scientific Adviser

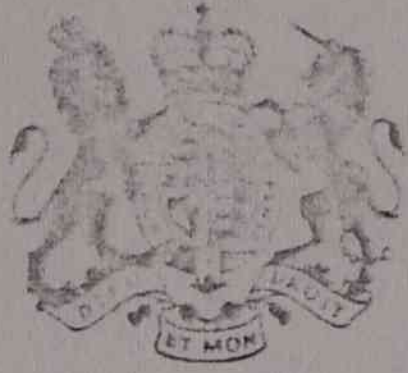
Cabinet Office
16 January 1985

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBIN NICOLSON
CABINET OFFICE

ANGLO-GERMAN SUMMIT - SPACE STATION

You minuted the Prime Minister on 16 January suggesting that she might take the initiative by raising UK participation in the US Manned Station programme with Chancellor Kohl.

In the event there was no time to bring up this matter.

(C.D. Powell)

18 January, 1985

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