



10 DOWNING STREET

*Drafted but not sent -*

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 December 1985

You were on the front bench in the House yesterday when I made clear the Government's position concerning the future of Westlands - namely that it is a matter for the Company to decide.

The Company's decision is a matter of commercial judgement for its directors and ultimately its shareholders.

That was the basis of the decisions reached by the Economic Committee of the Cabinet on 9 December.

In this situation no Minister should use his position to promote one commercial option in preference to another - so long as he remains in Government.

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP.

It is the policy of the Government that it is for the shareholders of Westland to decide what course to follow in the best interests of the company and its employees. The Government will give no advice and express no view on what that course should be.

---

This is the policy of the Government as agreed by the Cabinet collectively.