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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
1-19 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0ET
Telephone (Direct dialling) 01-215 5422
GTN 215
(Switchboard) 01-215 7877

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

20 January 1986

The Rt Hon John MacGregor OBE MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
HM Treasury
Parliament Street
LONDON
SW1P 3AG

W BPN

Dear Tom,

LAKER CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT : CLAIMS BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Nick Ridley has copied to me his letters to you of 13 December and 15 January; and I have also seen Geoffrey Howe's minute to you of 10 January. *at day*

2 Like Geoffrey Howe, I am naturally reluctant to forego any sums which might otherwise accrue to Government Departments. But I very much take Nick Ridley's point that our position would be difficult to explain, if we chose to take windfall benefits as a result of an action which we had consistently criticized. I would therefore go along with what Nick Ridley has proposed.

3 I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other Cabinet colleagues, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Leon

LEON BRITTAN

JF5AVG

AGROSPACE PTU
British Airways

