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Prime Minister  
CDP  
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TLX NO 2/114 7.2.86

TO : THE PRIME MINISTER  
FROM : MR ALAN BRISTOW

DEAR PRIME MINISTER

I AM SENDING HEREUNDER THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT I MADE TO THE PRESS ASSOCIATION TODAY JUST IN CASE IT HAS NOT BEEN ACCURATELY AND FULLY REPORTED TO YOU.

QUOTE

STATEMENT BY ALAN BRISTOW 7 FEBRUARY 1986

I WHOLEHEARTEDLY CONFIRM THE STATEMENT AND SENTIMENT EXPRESSED IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS RELEASE ISSUED THIS MORNING ON THE WESTLAND AFFAIR WHERE SHE SAYS : 'NO AUTHORITY TO OFFER AN HONOUR TO MR BRISTOW HAS BEEN SOUGHT OR GIVEN. NO APPROACH HAS BEEN MADE TO ME THAT ANY SUCH OFFER BE CONSIDERED. I SHOULD HAVE DISMISSED ANY SUCH APPROACH OUT OF HAND AS A TOTAL ABUSE OF THE HONOUR SYSTEM.'

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THE INDUCEMENTS MADE TO ME, PRIOR TO THE SHAREHOLDERS MEETING IN THE ALBERT HALL ON 17 JANUARY 1986, OF PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF MY SERVICES TO THE COUNTRY IN THE FORM OF A KNOTHOOD IF I WERE TO VOTE IN FAVOUR OF THE WESTLAND BOARD RESOLUTIONS 2 AND 3 WERE NOT MADE WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRIME MINISTER OR ANY MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT. MOREOVER, I WOULD LIKE TO CONFIRM THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S ACCOUNT OF THE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN US IS TOTALLY ACCURATE.

HOWEVER, THE FOREGOING DOES NOT DETRACT FROM THE FACT THAT, QUITE SEPARATELY, I WAS OFFERED INDUCEMENTS OF A DIRECTORSHIP ON THE BOARD OF WESTLAND PLC AS WELL AS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SELL ALL MY SHARES IN WESTLAND AT 135 PENCE PER SHARE ON OR AFTER THE 1ST JANUARY 1987, IF BY THAT TIME I HAD NOT BEEN OFFERED AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP IN WESTLAND PLC.

I DECIDED TO DISCLOSE THESE EVENTS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS PUT TO ME BY THE PRESS ON 5 FEBRUARY 1986 AND IN PARTICULAR IN RESPONSE TO THE ACCUSATIONS MADE BY SIR JOHN CUCKNEY, CHAIRMAN OF WESTLAND PLC, REPORTED IN THE BIRMINGHAM POST ON THE SAME DATE, THAT I HAD ACTED IN CONCERT WITH THE EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM WHICH IS TOTALLY UNTRUE.

UNQUOTE

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHY I HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO CLEAR MY GOOD NAME IN PUBLIC AND THAT THE ABOVE STATEMENT WILL PUT THE MATTER TO REST FOR GOOD.

YOURS SINCERELY  
ALAN E BRISTOW

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

10 February 1986

I write on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your telex of 7 February conveying the text of a statement which you made that day to the Press Association.

(Charles Powell)

Alan E. Bristow, Esq.

JA