



10 DOWNING STREET

## Press Notice

### WESTLAND: A STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

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 honours system.

No member of the Government nor anyone acting on its behalf has made any offer of an honour to Mr Bristow or tried to bring pressure to bear on him in any way.

The only communications which I have had with Mr Bristow on the Westland matter arose from a telex which he sent on 16 December 1985 to seek a meeting with me. On 17 December, Mr Bristow was told that it would not be appropriate for a meeting to take place. On 23 December Mr Bristow indicated that he shared my view that it was the responsibility of the Westland Board and its shareholders to resolve the situation and that he had decided not to pursue the matter any further with the Government.

7 February 1986

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 knighthood 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.

SRWABJ

Aerospace  
Westlands

STATEMENT BY ALAN BRISTOW, 7 FEBRUARY 1986

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