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PRIME MINISTER

The Chief Whip saw three Conservative members of the Defence Select Committee (Sir Humphrey Atkins, Michael Mates and Neil Thorne) about their Westland's inquiry. The Chief thinks that, as a result of his conversation, the Select Committee will drop their proposal to call Bernard and Charles to give evidence. But they still intend to recall Robert Armstrong next Wednesday week to ask him some further questions, notice of which he may be given early next week.

The Chief Whip's Office are as much at a loss as I am to understand what good the three backbenchers think they will accomplish by recalling Robert. The Chief has done his best to dissuade them, but to no avail.

N.L.W. ms

NLW

25 February 1986

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