



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 November 1985

Many thanks for your note of 31 October.

I will ensure that the Prime Minister sees a copy of your letter to the Secretary of State for Defence as soon as possible.

(Caroline Ryder)

The Lord Weinstock

JJA

personal

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01-493 8484

Pine Linster (K)

CDP

1/xi

31 October, 1985

I will raise this
with M-4 when he
returns
Dear Caroline,

may I again apologise to you
to make sure that the P.M. sees the enclosed copy
letter to the S. of S. for defence. It does not
say so categorically, but the fact is that
the torpedo programme is being delayed, its
costs are being unnecessarily pushed up, and
currently, support and collaboration prospects are
being spontaneously damaged. It is all very
frustrating.

Yours sincerely,
Arnold Brownstock

*With
Lord Weinstock's
Compliments*

31st October, 1985

Dear Michael,

COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS - TORPEDO REPORT

The misleading and factually incorrect Public Accounts report, together with the continuing reverberations of hostile press comment arising from it, are having a serious adverse impact on the export opportunities for torpedoes. Furthermore, the prospects for international collaboration have been reduced, and, at the best, the UK bargaining position has been weakened.

The damage has been aggravated by the incomprehensible omission of Marconi's name from the recent announcement of the successful firing of STING RAY, notwithstanding our request that it should be included.

The Managing Director of Marconi Underwater Systems Limited is writing to CDP to seek his help in putting the record straight. I hope this will be forthcoming in full measure, since in giving evidence

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before the Public Accounts Committee, CDP's defence of the Department and its supplier was hardly robust. He certainly did not make the most of what has been achieved, or the success of the programme since Marconi took control of it.

The recovery of the situation seems to me so important in vindication of HMG's decision in favour of the UK torpedo programme, as well as to the prospects for exports which constituted an important part of its justification, that I feel it right to ask for your assistance. I am also copying this letter to the Prime Minister, since from the beginning she has taken a direct personal interest and has regularly pressed us to achieve more exports of torpedoes.

Lord Weinstock

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP,
Secretary of State,
Ministry of Defence,
Whitehall,
LONDON, SW1A 2HB.