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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
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MO 26/11/9

28th June 1985

*Dear Charles,*

EUROPEAN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT

Following further advice from our Embassy in Bonn received here yesterday afternoon, the Defence Secretary revised the suggested line to take for the Prime Minister with Chancellor Kohl and I attach an expanded second page of this part of the brief. You have already received this informally but I am now circulating it for the record.

I am copying this letter and the attachment to Len Appleyard (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Rachel Lomax (HM Treasury), John Mogg (Department of Trade and Industry) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever,*

*Richard Mottram*

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(2) organisational arrangements must be on basis of equal partnership - no winners, no losers. French proposal for design office in Paris headed by Frenchman would lead to French domination. Arrangements must also be efficient: we have relevant common experience in Tornado on which to draw.

d. Should our one last effort to reach agreement on a five nation EFA prove unsuccessful, we can understand the political difficulty for any German Chancellor, especially one who has devoted so much effort to consolidating the German relationship with Paris, to contemplate parting company with France on a matter of such magnitude. But the technical and military arguments are incontrovertible. In weighing the matter up Chancellor Kohl will no doubt have in mind the conclusions that might be drawn in Britain, and perhaps elsewhere, if it appeared that Germany's special link with France were to take precedence in Bonn over even the best case for co-operation with Germany's other partners, on an aircraft intended for use by Britain as by Germany for air defence in the central region.

Sent to  
Aulon 17.10  
28/6.