



(56) 8fw

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

31 January 1986

FRIGATES FOR THE NAVY

Following our recent conversation, Policy Unit have now rephrased their dossier on short fat ships, a copy of which I now attach. This, you might feel, could be given a wider, though I hope still restricted, circulation within the MoD.

Brian Griffiths has commented to me on the dossier as follows:

"There are two distinct issues involved; the first, which is of more immediate concern, is the extent of the Navy's involvement in the impending court case; the second concerns the merits of the decision to reject the Giles Thornycroft design. In my view, it would be sensible to keep these two issues separate from one another; ideally the latter may in any case fall outside the remit of the retired official whom Sir Clive Whitmore has in mind. However, the two issues may have become entwined."

(N. L. WICKS)

Sir Clive Whitmore, K.C.B., C.V.O.

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MR WICKS

31 January 1986

FRIGATES FOR THE NAVY

Following our conversation the other day, the dossier on this subject, which was prepared by Christopher Monckton, has now been extensively rewritten in a clearer, more objective manner. Christopher's ^{sent to MoD} dossier questions both the decision to reject the short, fat design and the methodology by which this decision was reached. The substance of the dossier will not, of course, be welcome to the MoD but I think that its presentation, as currently drafted, should not give needless ⁹ defence.

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BRIAN GRIFFITHS

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