



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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Telephone 01-930 7022

MO 14/2E

8th December 1986

has seen
an

~~Prime Minister~~

C D P
S/n

See above.

PROJECT "MOONFLOWER"

This is the name that we now give to the "black" subject to which Admiral Poindexter referred in private conversation with you after Camp David, and on which you and I agree that it would be timely for the Defence Secretary to bring the Prime Minister up to date. Unfortunately there had not yet been an opportunity.

In essence, the position is this: Mr Younger and Mr Weinberger have had a private word in the margin of various recent NATO meetings. Mr Weinberger has offered us a chance to purchase the current US aircraft, but we have replied that we would not wish actually to buy hardware while the programme itself remains strictly black. We have, however, said that we would be most interested in technology exchange and we await American proposals on this. It would involve widening the circle of people who have access to the subject.

Mr Weinberger throughout has been most constructive in his offers of help. We for our part feel that we have been equally constructive in our response, and have no sense of having turned down an offer, except on the particular issue of buying aircraft at the present time. Mr Younger raised the subject very briefly with Mr Weinberger privately this morning but not to go into any detail on what Poindexter said to you, just sufficiently to test whether Weinberger is disappointed at our reaction so far. He certainly does not seem to be.

I rather doubt whether Weinberger for his part will raise the subject with the Prime Minister this afternoon.

Yours sincerely,
J F Howe

(J F HOWE)

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10 Downing Street

SECRET



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From the Private Secretary

9 December 1986

Dear John,

PROJECT MOONFLOWER

Thank you for your letter of 8 December about Project Moonflower. The Prime Minister was grateful to be brought up to date, and is content with the position we have taken. The matter was not raised by Secretary Weinberger.

Yours sincerely,

(C. D. POWELL)

John Howe, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence

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