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9 December 1986

Dear Nigel,

DROPS

Thank you for your letter of 4 December.

2. This is a very long running story which Ministers here, as well as senior officials, have gone into very thoroughly. But there is now such a divide between the Department and Mr Stride and his supporters (who include Sir Ian Gilmour) that I fear a reconciliation of views is impossible.

3. As you have discovered, Christopher Monckton remains active for the interests of Boughtons and Ministers here know of his approach to Stephen Sherbourne.

4. We have not heard the last of this matter, but I very much hope that it need not take up any more of your time, let alone that of the Prime Minister.

Yours ever,

Clive Whitmore.

Nigel Wicks Esq CBE
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DEF: Provenas pt 4

