

PRIME MINISTER

cc: Mr Powell
Mr. Ingham
Mr. Addison

PARLIAMENTARY HANDLING OF NIMROD/AWACS

The Chief Whip believes that it will be very difficult to avoid an SO20 Debate on Thursday - probably between 1900 and 2200. Indeed, he sees some possible advantage in such a debate. It would, hopefully, set the seal on the decision and make it easier to avoid a full day's debate next year. Some Government backbenchers could well vote against.

You will no doubt wish to discuss this with the Business Managers at the Monday meeting.

N.L.W.

NLW

12 December 1986