

PRIME MINISTER

CABINET: AEW

We propose to circulate the minutes of today's OD discussion at the beginning of Cabinet so they will be available to all members. You might like to say a word of recognition for the very difficult task which the Defence Secretary inherited in dealing with the AEW decision, and the careful and methodical way in which he has gone about it.

You will also want to stress the vital importance of a united front by the Government. The arguments for buying AWACS are very strong and can be presented with confidence. You hope that each and every Minister will go out of his way to help make the case publicly for the Government's decision.

C.D.P.

Charles Powell

17 December 1986

DG2BPO