

Mr Powell

cc Mr Powell, No 10

o return

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DWF G 061/29

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OO FCO

OO FCO (DTI)

OO FCO (ODA)

GRS 110

CONFIDENTIAL

FM NEW DELHI 290630Z APR 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 551 OF 29 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE DTI, ODA

DTI TEL NO OTTER 137: WESTLAND

1. TUR CROSSED MY TEL NO 530 ABOUT MR RAISON'S TALK WITH RAJIV GANDHI. IN THE LIGHT OF BOTH, AND OF THE FACT THAT (UNLIKE ALEXANDER) GHAREKHAN IS NOT AN EFFECTIVE ORAL CHANNEL FOR SMOKING OUT THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER ON POLICY. I DECIDED TO WRITE RATHER THAN SPEAK TO HIM. MY LETTER WAS DELIVERED ON 27 APRIL AND WAS COUCHED IN TERMS DESIGNED TO MAKE IT HARD FOR HIM NOT TO SHOW IT TO GANDHI. TEXT IN MIFT: ENCLOSURE FOLLOWS BY TELELETTER. THE LATTER WAS INTENDED BOTH TO COUNTER A RECENT FRENCH MESSAGE TO GANDHI WHICH APPARENTLY CONCENTRATED ON KNOCKING THE W30 AND ALSO TO MAKE UP TEMPORARILY FOR THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREED EXPERTS' REPORT.

WADE-GERY

NNNN

XX

290732

Ps / LADY YOUNG.

Ps/Pas.

Ps/MR RENTON  
SIR W HARDING.

MR WILSON

HB /SAD.

ms

X7

**IMMEDIATE**

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DWF FFF 003/29

LUK 774/29

OO FCO

OO FCO (DTI)

OO FCO (ODA)

GR 480

CONFIDENTIAL

FM NEW DELHI 290645Z APR 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 552 OF 29 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE DTI, ODA

M I P T: WESTLAND

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER

QUOTE

**WESTLANDS 30 HELICOPTER**

I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SUBMIT TO YOU, FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE ENCLOSED NOTE ON SUBSTANTIVE POINTS WHICH HAVE BEEN RAISED SINCE MR GANDHI AND MRS THATCHER AGREED ON 14 APRIL THAT INDIAN AND BRITISH EXPERTS SHOULD JOINTLY EXAMINE ANY QUESTIONS THERE MIGHT BE ABOUT THE WESTLAND 30'S ABILITY TO MEET INDIA'S REQUIREMENT OR ABOUT ITS FLIGHT TRIAL PERFORMANCE.

I HAVE ALSO BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ENQUIRE, THROUGH YOU, ABOUT AN IMPORTANT PROCEDURAL POINT. AT HIS MEETING WITH MR RAISON ON 25 APRIL (AT WHICH MANI SHANKER AIYER WAS PRESENT ON YOUR BEHALF), THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED - AND KINDLY UNDERTOOK TO LOOK INTO THE FACT - THAT CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES SEEMED TO HAVE ARISEN ON THE INDIAN SIDE ABOUT THE MODALITIES FOR PRODUCING AN AGREED RECORD

X4

29073

B. (2)  
B/ Lady Young  
B/Pur.  
B/ Mr Renton  
~~Mr. Wilson~~  
Mr Wilson  
Hq. PAB  
ODA  
Mi (vic Pt)  
L9

INDIAN SIDE ABOUT THE MODALITIES FOR PRODUCING AN AGREED RECORD OF THE EXPERTS' DISCUSSION. AT THEIR LAST MEETING, ON 22 APRIL, THE BRITISH TEAM ASKED IF THEY COULD HAVE A COPY OF THE INDIAN DRAFT RECORD TO STUDY. THE INDIAN TEAM (LEAD BY AIR COMMODORE JOG) REPLIED THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO AGREE TO THIS BUT WOULD SEEK IT. SINCE THEN THE BRITISH TEAM HAVE HEARD NOTHING MORE.

IT IS CLEARLY DESIRABLE THAT AN AGREED RECORD SHOULD BE PRODUCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IF WE ARE NOT TO GET BACK INTO THE OLD SITUATION OF EACH PRIME MINISTER RECEIVING CONFLICTING EXPERT ADVICE. IT ALSO SEEMS A PITY THAT THE TEAM OF WESTLAND EXPERTS, WHO CAME TO INDIA AT SHORT NOTICE ON 17 APRIL, SHOULD REMAIN HERE IN IDLENESS AND BE UNABLE TO COMPLETE THE WORK FOR WHICH THEY CAME. WOULD IT THEREFORE BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO LET ME KNOW, FOR MRS THATCHER'S INFORMATION, HOW THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD LIKE THIS MATTER TO PROCEED?

IT WOULD ALSO BE VERY HELPFUL TO KNOW WHETHER, WHILE THE BRITISH EXPERTS ARE HERE IN DELHI, THERE ARE ANY OTHER POINTS WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD WISH THE TWO TEAMS OF EXPERTS TO ADDRESS. SO FAR, THE INDIAN TEAM HAVE RAISED ONLY THE SUBJECT REFERRED TO AT B IN THE ENCLOSURE TO THIS LETTER. THEY SAY THEY HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER TECHNICAL POINTS MENTIONED BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO MRS THATCHER ON 13 APRIL.

THE CHAIRMAN AND ENGINEERING DIRECTOR OF WESTLANDS WOULD OF COURSE BE HAPPY TO WAIT ON THE PRIME MINISTER IF THERE ARE ANY AREAS OF TECHNICAL CONCERN WHICH HE WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY PERSONALLY.

I AM SENDING COPIES OF THIS LETTER AND ITS ENCLOSURE TO THE DEFENCE SECRETARY AND TO AIR MARSHAL GREENE.

UNQUOTE

WADE-GERY

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IMMEDIATE

DWF G 062/29

ADVANCE COPY

LUK 771/29

OO FCO

OO FCO (DTI)

OO FCO (ODA)

GRS 85

CONFIDENTIAL

FM NEW DELHI 290515Z APR 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 549 OF 29 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE DTI, ODA

Ps—

Ps/LADY YOUNG.

Ps/Pus.

Ps/MR RENTON

SIR W HARDING.

MR WILSON

HD/SAD.

290733

X7

WESTLANDS

1. ARUN NEHRU (MY TELNO 363) CAME TO LUNCH YESTERDAY. HE SAID THAT THE HOLD-UP OVER WESTLANDS WAS ENTIRELY DUE TO TECHNICAL DOUBTS ON RAJIV GANDHI'S PART. UNLIKE NEHRU HIMSELF, GANDHI HAD STUDIED THE SUBJECT CAREFULLY AND IN DETAIL, AND THE DECISION NOW LAY WITH HIM. WE SHOULD NOT DESPAIR OF WINNING HIM ROUND. HE WELL UNDERSTOOD THE POLITICAL AND PARLIAMENTARY PROBLEM IN BRITAIN.

WADE-GERY

NNNN

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