



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

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10th February 1982

Dear Cranley,

In my evidence to the Committee on 11th November 1981, I told you that I was working on some evolutionary changes in the military area with the aim of giving the Chief of Defence Staff a rather stronger voice whilst at the same time maintaining the authority of the single-Service Chiefs of Staff. I promised to keep you in touch with progress. The decisions I have now made, which I shall be announcing today, and which will take effect immediately are:

- a. The Chief of Defence Staff, as the Secretary of State's principal military adviser, will be responsible for offering independent military advice as well as seeing that the views of the Chiefs of Staff are properly reflected.
- b. The Chiefs of Staff Committee will be the forum where the Chief of the Defence Staff seeks the views of his single-Service colleagues.
- c. The single-Service Chiefs of Staff will continue to be the professional Heads of their own Services, responsible for the morale and efficiency of their Service and the conduct of single-Service operations.



As Heads of their own Service they will continue to give advice on strategy, military operations and the military implications of defence policy. They will continue to have right of access to the Secretary of State and the Prime Minister.

d. The Central Defence Staff will be accountable to the Chief of Defence Staff who will be responsible for directing their work. They will provide support for the Chief of Defence Staff to enable him to proffer independent military advice.

e. The Chief of Defence Staff will chair a Senior Appointments Committee with the single-Service Chiefs of Staff as members. This Committee will review all Service 3 and 4-star promotions and appointments and all those 2-star appointments accountable to, or directly responsible to, the Chief of Defence Staff.

The Chief of Defence Staff has always had the responsibility of rendering both his own advice as the Secretary of State's principal military adviser and the collective advice of the Chiefs of Staff Committee as its Chairman. The changes set out in this letter are largely a matter of emphasis - placing greater stress on CDS's own advice and the machinery needed to formulate it. The changes reflect as much as anything the ever-increasing importance in our affairs of resource allocation and balance of investment questions, where I need to look to the Chief of Defence Staff for independent advice on military priorities across all the UK's defence commitments and programmes. The Senior Appointments Committee will involve the Chief of Defence Staff formally in the process of selecting officers for senior appointments across the three Services.



There will be a number of consequential changes in organisation and working processes and these are now being worked out. I will keep you informed as we progress.

I am not making changes in Ministerial duties or in the Service Boards.

*Yours ever
John*

John Nott

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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MO 20 *Copy to Mr. Jeffrey* 10th February 1982

Prime Minister

To note -

AW

10.2.82

Dear Sir,

HIGHER DEFENCE ORGANISATION

In your letter to me of 10th November you conveyed the Prime Minister's authority for my Secretary of State to set in hand detailed work on organisational changes affecting the Chiefs of Staff. The Defence Secretary did, as he had indicated, mention the matter to the Select Committee and has agreed the changes with the Chiefs of Staff. To complete the story may I now send you a copy of the letter which he has sent to Cranley Onslow MP as Chairman of the Select Committee on Defence. We will be arranging for the defence correspondents to be made aware of the changes, in a low key.

Yours ever,

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

11 February 1982

Dear Sir,

HIGHER DEFENCE ORGANISATION

Thank you for your letter of 10 February 1982 with which you sent me a copy of your Secretary of State's letter to Mr Cranley Onslow MP about changes in the higher Defence organisation.

I have shown this to the Prime Minister and she has taken note of it.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Whitmore.

David Omand Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

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