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MR POWELL

CHANNEL FIXED LINK

The main points of the communique issued last night by the Secretary of State for Transport and the French Ministers responsible are:-

- (i) there would need to be essential political guarantees from the two Governments;
- (ii) any project would be financed without any support from public funds or Government financial guarantees and on the basis of international market conditions;
- (iii) the initiative would have to come from the market itself;
- (iv) Governments would require certain conditions on safety and environment to be respected;
- (v) an official working group is to be set up;
- (vi) any proposals from enterprises would be submitted jointly to the two Governments.

I am sending a copy to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*DF Williamson*

D F WILLIAMSON

15 November 1984