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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT  
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-212 4581

SIR PETER LAZARUS KCB  
PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2AS

21 March 1985

*Dear Robert,*

As you will know, my Secretary of State and his French counter-part agreed yesterday on the issue of guidelines, on the basis of which promoters of various forms of fixed link across the Channel can submit proposals to the two Governments. They had agreed on 14 November 1984 to set up an Anglo/French Working Group to prepare these guidelines. At the Summit on 30 November 1984 the Prime Minister and the French President set a reporting deadline of 28 February. This was demanding enough. It was made almost impossible by a delay on the French side in mobilising their team. The group was able to meet for the first time only on 10 January.

That the reporting deadline was in the event met was due in the first place to the preparatory work put in by the UK side and thereafter to the effective and constructive inter-action which developed, on a highly delegated basis, between the UK and French members of the group.

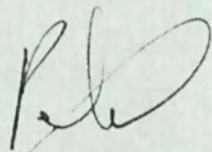
On our side the group was an inter-Departmental one, under the chairmanship of Andrew Lyall from this Department, containing people from the No. 10 Policy Unit, Cabinet Office, FCO, Treasury and DTp. Individually, they mobilised assistance from wherever else in Whitehall it was required and where necessary set up direct contacts between the relevant UK and French experts.



I am writing to you to record that in my view this was an occasion when Whitehall as a whole performed particularly well and deserves credit. I believe my own people did well. But I would like to record in particular the very effective contributions made by those who served with Lyall on the group itself: John Wybrew (No. 10 Policy Unit), Robin Christopher (Cabinet Office), John Gray (FCO) and Kingsley Jones (Treasury). I and my colleagues are most grateful to them all.

I am sending copies of this letter to Antony Acland, Peter Middleton, and Robin Butler.

Yours ever



PETER LAZARUS



22 MAR 1975





*With the Compliments*

*of*

*The Permanent Under Secretary of State*

*Department of Transport*

*2 Marsham Street London SW1P 3EB*

*Telephone 01-212 4581*

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