



PRIME MINISTER

CHANNEL FIXED LINK: ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Anglo/French Group assessing the proposals for a Fixed Channel Link completed its work last week. It was a difficult exercise, not just because of the scale of the task and the short time available, but also because, as you well know, the French approach to any problem is very different from our own. The resulting report is nevertheless a valuable document. But our officials representing us on the group felt that we should have a crystallised paper to assist us in our consideration - and one which draws out issues not dealt with in the joint report which are essentially of UK concern.

I enclose with this letter the note by UK officials, to which is appended:

- Documents not present at review (CW) 8/5/84*
- Annex A - List of the areas covered by the assessment;
 - Annex B - Summary Report of Anglo/French Assessment Group;
 - Annex C - Detailed report of Anglo/French Assessment Group;
 - Annex D - Note summarising the results of our consultation exercise;
 - Annex E - Note on security aspects.

(Annexes B and C are still subject to the "linguistic perfection" with which we are all very familiar.)

I want to think about this, with David Mitchell, over Christmas. I will then write a paper for consideration at the meeting of E(A) on 8 January, which I will circulate as soon as I can. The E(A) paper will incorporate further copies of the attached papers.

I am copying this to the Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary, Secretary of State for Defence, Minister of Agriculture, members of E(A) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

R. A. Nelson

(Private Secretary)

for NICHOLAS RIDLEY
23 December 1985

(approved by the Secretary of State and signed in his absence).

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CDP



Prime Minister
CDP
12/12

PRIME MINISTER

CHANNEL FIXED LINK

I should like you to know that James Sherwood is a personal friend. I would therefore propose not to take part myself in any discussions there may be in Cabinet, or in Government generally, about the choice of scheme for the Channel Fixed Link.

I am sending a copy of this minute to Nicholas Ridley and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Doyle's Hand.

12 December 1985



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From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

CCBB



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

Yes no

24 December 1985

Dear David

Prime Minister
Content for Mr. Waddington
to attend (if) a place of the
Home Secretary? MEX 24/12

E(A) are to discuss the proposals for a Channel Fixed Link on 8 January 1986. As the Home Secretary has explained to the Prime Minister, he does not intend to participate in these discussions in view of his acquaintanceship with James Sherwood.

There is, however, a strong Home Office interest on the plans for the fixed link and the Home Secretary would like Mr Waddington to attend the meeting, if the Prime Minister is content.

I am copying this to Michael Stark and John Wiggins.

CF Told Roz 30/12
Smtt

Yours sincerely
W R Fittall

Please tell
the Cabinet Office,
JW
30/12

W R FITTALL

David Norgrove, Esq.