



MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

D/MIN/NL/14/2

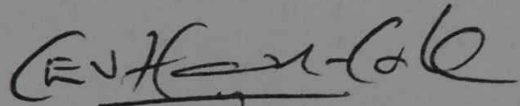
17th January 1986

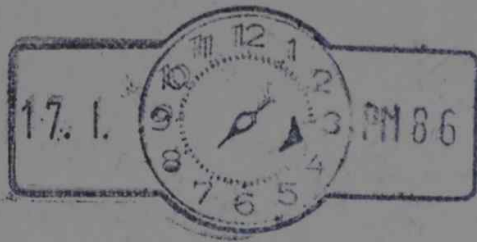
APS/Secretary of State	AUS(EC)
PS/US of S (DP)	AUS/Air(PE)
PS/PUS	DPP
PS/CDP	D of DEC
PS/CDEC	Mr C D Powell (PS/Prime Minister)
PS/CA	PS/Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
PS/DUS(DP)	
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WESTLANDS: TELEPHONE CALL FROM MR VAN HOUWELINGEN, NETHERLANDS
MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

Mr van Houwelingen rang Mr Lamont at 1200 on 17th January to discuss a number of defence procurement issues, including the position of Westlands. Mr van Houwelingen reported that the French, German, Italian and Spanish Governments were preparing a declaration to continue co-operation in the development of helicopters. So far, there had been problems between the industries of the countries and France, Germany and Italy were reluctant to co-operate with Westlands. Mr van Houwelingen believed that it was important to find ways of continuing European collaboration on helicopters, but he appreciated that it was difficult for Mr Lamont to give any undertaking.

2. Mr Lamont replied that although Mr Heseltine was no longer Secretary of State, Mr Younger and he remained firmly committed to European collaboration in defence procurement whenever this was sensible. Whatever the outcome of the Westland shareholders' meeting, the British Government remained anxious for Westland to continue their collaboration in Europe; the Government did not want to see this co-operation end, even if the Sikorsky bid was accepted. Mr Lamont noted that it was important that those involved should take no firm stand before the future of Westlands was known. Mr van Houwelingen agreed with this.


PP (J P H Harrison)
APS/Minister (DP)
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CDP



With the Compliments of the

Private Secretary

Minister of State for Defence Procurement

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