

We must NOT reveal

Prime Minister

to note.

MR WICKS then conversations - we

WESTLAND were not a party to them.

Do you agree X?

DTI/PS If GEC or B.A. wish to make the fact public that is wholly another

N.L.W.

23.1

John Mogg told me the following this morning.

for them

and NOT us.

mt

Sam Brittan last night saw Lord Weinstock. Lord Weinstock told Sam Brittan that Mr Heseltine had been on the 'phone to him almost every day both before and after his resignation. Among other things, Mr Heseltine had urged Lord Weinstock to buy Westland shares.

At Leon Brittan's request, Sam Brittan asked Lord Weinstock this morning whether the fact of these conversations could be made public by the Government. Lord Weinstock expressed surprise that Leon Brittan had not known of these conversations. He had assumed that he did and that Mr Heseltine was acting in the full knowledge of the Government.

Lord Weinstock did not want GEC brought into this affair more than it already was. But he said that if the Prime Minister or Leon Brittan referred to the conversations with Mr Heseltine he, Lord Weinstock, would not deny it.

Lord Weinstock also said that Mr Heseltine had been having similar frequent conversations with Sir Austin Pearce and with Aerospatiale. He thought Sir Austin Pearce would take the same view as he had done about making public the fact of the conversations.

DTI officials have advised Mr Brittan strongly against publicising these conversations. However, Mr Brittan and his officials feel that more might be made of the climate in which the decision about the Solicitor-General's letter was taken, and John Michell has been asked to prepare a

paragraph for possible use either in the statement or in supplementaries.

X  
You told me that your firm advice to the Prime Minister would also be against giving publicity to the conversations and I have told John Mogg this.

DRN

I would strongly recommend that if any of these conversations were to be mentioned in public we should first check with those concerned.

DAVID NORGROVE

DRN  
23/1

23 January 1986

SLHAIO



10 DOWNING STREET

Told John Noyg

PC Noygrove,

DLN  
28/1

(pa)

PC tell N

Noyg the

PNs amount on  
your rate book.

N.C.W

27.1