

FROM: THE RT HON JOHN WAKEHAM MP



Government Chief Whip

12 Downing Street, London SW1

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

THE PRIME MINISTER

HIGHER ORGANISATION FOR DEFENCE

The Secretary of State for Defence invited my comments on his Minute to you of 24th February.

All my instincts tell me that what Michael Heseltine proposes is correct. However, given the enormous interest that Defence issues generate with so many of our own supporters, it will be of the highest importance, if it is decided to proceed as the Secretary of State proposes, that we take with us those most closely concerned on Defence matters, as well as the Conservative Members of the Select Committee. I therefore very much welcome the meeting you are proposing before we consider any Parliamentary handling which will inevitably present some problems.

I am sending copies of this to the Lord President, the Secretary of State for Defence and Sir Robert Armstrong (Cabinet Office).

28th February 1984



PRIME MINISTER

HIGHER ORGANISATION FOR DEFENCE

I have seen Michael Heseltine's minute to you of 24 February.

I have long believed that the original plans for an integrated Ministry of Defence were not being carried through. I therefore strongly support the Secretary of State's plans.

I am sending copies of this to Michael Heseltine, John Wakeham and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Ch*

*27/2.*