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PRIME MINISTER

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BRITISH LEYLAND

I would like to briefly register my concern at the reports in The Times, Financial Times and other papers today. I am concerned that the kind of arrangement outlined in these papers will mean - and will be seen to mean - that control will have passed to General Motors. It is open to debate whether such a move would be in the interests of Land Rover and it is difficult to see how it can be in the interests of Freight Rover. I do not know, of course, how accurate these reports are but I hope that we can seek to avoid fresh newspaper stories over the weekend prior to any discussions we may have next week.

I am copying this minute to members of MISC 126.

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March 1986