C 1857

42

Secretary of State

Copy to:

Minister (AF)	VCDS(P&L)
Minister (DP)	DUS(P)
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CDS	DCDS(OR)
CNS	ACDS(Pol)
CGS	ACDS(Ops)
CAS	AUS(PrB)
CSA	AUS(OR)
CDP	SECCOS

LESSONS LEARNT FROM OPERATION CORPORATE

1. I agree generally with the approach suggested in CDS's minute to you of 27 May but would add a few comments.

2. First, I think we shall need to do more than ask CTF 317 to "gather together the numerous inputs" and extract his conclusions. We shall need to gather the available data systematically, and we may also have to form a special team (as has been done on previous occasions).

3. Second, I think it only right to put a marker down that we may find ourselves faced with classic stonewall tactics from the Treasury about the purchase of new or existing equipment. We shall, therefore, have to clear some of the trees from the wood and have an element of independent objectivity to support our case.

4. Third, there is a good deal of industrial interest in all this and we shall need both to get the best out of their knowledge and experience, while not becoming embroiled in squabbles between firms.

5. The implications for Defence Sales are profound and, perhaps, the most pressing. The French have had orders for over 1,[illegible] AM39 since SHEFFIELD was sunk. I have suggested to Minister (DP) that his Defence Sales Group look at the possibilities [illegible]

FC

FRANK COOPER
28 May 1982

DATE
CDS
[illegible]
Sec of S