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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

29 April 1988

Dear Pete,

BRITISH SHIPBUILDERS

The Prime Minister has seen the Chancellor of the Duchy's minute of 28 April and the attached draft statement.

The Prime Minister does not see any need to make a statement about the position at North-East Shipbuilders until the position on the Danish ferry contract is clearer. She also thinks it essential that the position on financing of the package is resolved between your Department and the Treasury before a statement is made.

BF | The Prime Minister wishes the position on all the outstanding shipbuilding issues, including the other BS yards, Harland and Wolff and the future of intervention support for private sector yards to be discussed at the meeting of E(A) scheduled for 10 May. She would be grateful if the Chancellor of the Duchy, in conjunction with other colleagues, could arrange for papers to be prepared for this purpose.

I should be grateful if you could ensure that circulation of this letter is restricted to those who have an operational need to see it. I am sending copies of this letter to Alex Allan (H.M. Treasury), David Watkins (Northern Ireland Office), Roger Bright (Department of the Environment), David Crawley (Scottish Office) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office), and I should be grateful if they could treat this document in the same way.

Yan,
Paul

(PAUL GRAY)

Peter Smith, Esq.,
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office.

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