



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 June 1985

My dear Chancellor.

Thank you for your message, received earlier this month, about the European Transonic Wind Tunnel. As you say, the project is one of great importance to the future of the aerospace industry.

I am very glad that at a meeting of the Wind Tunnel partner governments in Bonn on 14 June our national representatives were able to confirm Britain's full participation. I welcome this further evidence of a developing collaborative relationship in science and technology which I hope we can extend into other fields, and I look forward to our two countries working closely together on this project.

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Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Herr Dr. Helmut Kohl

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TEXT OF LETTER FROM THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR
TO THE PRIME MINISTER
(NOT YET DELIVERED)

Dear Prime Minister, Dear Margaret,

During our recent meeting at Chequers, there was unfortunately no opportunity to discuss the planned European Transonic Wind Tunnel. Permit me, therefore, to broach the subject in this fashion.

I should first of all like to express my satisfaction at the fact that at the end of last year the British Government approved of Cologne-Porz as the site for the Tunnel and that agreement thus exists on this point among the four Governments concerned.

The start of construction of this important, large experimental facility now depends solely on the necessary funds being secured. The Governments of France, the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany have confirmed their financial pledges. Leaving only Britain's confirmation - as announced last autumn - of its pledge to meet 28 percent of the construction costs.

You are undoubtedly aware that the Tunnel is of considerable importance in the endeavour to keep European aerospace industry competitive since the US Government has prohibited foreign industries from using its modern large-scale wind tunnels.

I would therefore be most grateful to you if you could seek to ensure that Britain's financial contribution is confirmed as soon as possible so as to avoid any further delay.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) Helmut Kohl

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