



cc BG
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My ref:

Your ref:

27 February 1986

*Insert MOD
reply*

In June

EUMETSAT HEADQUARTERS

I should like to add my support to the bid to set up the EUMETSAT Headquarters in the United Kingdom as outlined in Geoffrey Pattie's letter of 18 February 1986.

Experience has shown that the longer term benefits of establishing such organisations on home territory can be substantial. The model of INMARSAT is one that springs to mind. In the case of EUMETSAT, I see advantages not only to the UK industry but also my Department.

Although the primary aim of the European Meteosat System is weather forecasting, the satellites and the information they are able to provide can have implications for climate monitoring and a range of environmental observations and applications. A specific example is a pilot project sponsored by my Department and Water Authorities to transmit hydrological data via Meteosat's collection system. We would hope to see this capability continued and developed further in the future.

More generally, long term study of meteorological satellite data will improve our understanding of climate change. Also, importantly, there is the possibility that future geostationary satellites could be equipped with instruments to measure chemical data which would extend and improve our knowledge of atmospheric pollution.

EUMETSAT in the UK would also strengthen this Country's framework of space activities following the recent formation of the British National Space Centre. I see this as added justification for supporting this bid.

Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, Geoffrey Howe, Nigel Lawson, Nicholas Edwards, Norman Tebbit, Tom King, David Young, Malcolm Rifkind, Geoffrey Pattie and Sir Robin Nicholson.

Right hand to get it!

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KENNETH BAKER

Kenneth Baker

The Rt Hon George Younger TD MP

AEROSPACE
SPACE POLICY



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