

RESTRICTED

✓CBG



Prime Minister. ④

To note that the D-6 is
in port, but that the timetable for
setting up a trading fund has slipped.

MEM 16/4

nm

TO:

PRIME MINISTER

FROM:

GEOFFREY PATTIE

9 April 1986

BRITISH NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE

In August last year you endorsed the proposals in Sir Robin Nicholson's report on the establishment of the British National Space Centre and agreed that April 1986 should be adopted as the target date for setting up BNSC as a trading fund.

In the event we were not able to appoint Roy Gibson as Director-General until the end of November and he is making good progress in organising the Centre, and in preparing a National Space Plan which will be submitted to Ministers in July. However, it has not been possible to progress as quickly as we would have wished on the question of the future status and funding arrangements for the BNSC. It is clear that we have missed the target date of April 1986.

Roy Gibson intends to submit a separate report to Ministers on these issues when the National Space Plan is submitted in the summer. I believe that this is a realistic timescale.

I am copying this minute to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and to the Chief Scientific Adviser at the Cabinet Office.

GEOFFREY PATTIE

MR 5ABN

1786
1986
BOARD OF TRADE
BICENTENARY



TO:

FROM:

BRITISH NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE

