

NATIONAL SPACE PLAN

Below is an analysis by Mr Roy Gibson, Director of the British National Space Centre, of what different levels of funding would mean for the British space effort.

This will need a good deal of further analysis and DTI Ministers will want themselves to consider it. But I thought you might like to glance through it over the weekend. The existing pattern of expenditure is set out on page 5 and the options start on page 6. I have highlighted the additional expenditure requested under each option. Option 1 is effectively continuing expenditure at its present level.

You said at your earlier small meeting to discuss space and Airbus that you would like to have a presentation on how the money would be spent.

DTI seem inclined to suggest that you should see Mr Gibson. I am sure it would be wrong in this case for you to see Mr Gibson without the rest of E(A). It would encourage a belief that the eventual decision will have been very much your own personal decision.

Mr Gibson might on the other hand be invited to give a short presentation at the start of E(A) (say 15 minutes). He would not of course stay for the discussion.

The choice on this is a balanced one. It might make for a better informed discussion, and it would help to show that Cabinet had considered the options seriously. On the other hand, I suspect it would tend to create a presumption in favour of higher expenditure than is at present allowed for.

Agree that you should not see Mr Gibson yourself?

Subject to Mr Channon's views, would you wish him to give a presentation to E(A)?

by David Norgrove
DUTY CLERK
PP David Norgrove
6 March 1987

As expenditure is limited - it seems to me - on reflection - do we wish to have presentation of one subject. I want to know what we are up to if more money on space is to be granted not