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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

13 March 1987

From the Private Secretary

Dear Michael,

SPACE

It seems very likely that the Government's plans for expenditure on space will be controversial. You are no doubt already preparing briefing to be used to defend the Government's position next week, particularly against the possibility that no final decision will have been taken in time for the international meetings. It would also be right to decide as soon as possible the line the Government will take if expenditure is set at the level of either option 1 or option 3. The briefing will need to cover the general position on the Government's support for R&D, as well as space itself.

It would be helpful to have first sight of this material by close on Monday: the news could well start to break on Tuesday or Wednesday, if not before.

I am copying this letter to Rob Smith (Department of Education and Science), Jill Rutter (Chief Secretary's Office, HM Treasury) and Brian Unwin (Cabinet Office).

Yours,

David

DAVID NORGROVE

Michael Gilbertson, Esq.,
Department of Trade and Industry.

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