

PRIME MINISTER

WESTLAND

Mr. Younger and Mr. Channon will at a meeting at 0900 tomorrow, put to Sir John Cuckney the proposals agreed at your meeting this morning, with an order for 16 Lynx 'paid for' by five fewer EH 101s.

Mr. Younger said that, if Sir John accepted the proposal, he was inclined to announce it to Parliament tomorrow afternoon. He is concerned that otherwise there will be a leak from the Westland Board.

I suggested that it would be an idea to allow time for Sir John Cuckney to consider what he would say about the future of Weston-Super-Mare and Yeovil, and that if necessary perhaps a junior minister at MOD could make the announcement while Mr. Younger is in the Far East.

Mr. Younger said he would think about this and would check back with you before taking a final decision on whether to make an announcement tomorrow afternoon.

If of course Sir John says he is quite ready for an announcement tomorrow afternoon, an early announcement would prevent the build-up of speculation.

DAVID NORGROVE

18 March 1987

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