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CONFIDENTIAL

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The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Secretary of State for Foreign &
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Geoffrey

Thank you for your minute of 6 April asking whether I thought it would be helpful if you mentioned the Space Station negotiations when you see George Schultz on 9 April. I think it would. Geoffrey Pattie had a number of discussions about the negotiations when he was in Washington last week, not only with the Administrator of NASA, but also with William Cockell in the NSC who is chairing the interagency group which is deciding the US position, William Graham the Scientific Advisor to the President, officials in the Department of Commerce and Transport, and finally with the State Department official who is leading the US team in the negotiations. He also saw relevant Members of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

He was impressed by the amount of influence in the negotiations now being exerted by the other domestic Departments, including DoD, who are probably not as sensitive to the international aspects as are NASA and the State Department. At the same time he felt that there was a widening appreciation of the justifiable concerns of the Europeans about the use of the Space Station by DoD and the veto powers given to the US in the latest draft of the agreement, which would prevent the access we need even to the module being provided by Europe.

JG3AVV



We are expecting a revised draft agreement in the near future, and it may even have arrived before you see George Schultz, but it would be very helpful if you could reinforce Geoffrey Pattie's message, which he made clear was a European view with which we agree.

I welcome the close cooperation between our respective officials on these difficult negotiations which, as you say, are reaching a crucial stage.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, George Younger, Kenneth Baker and Sir Robert Armstrong.

[Handwritten signature]

PAUL CHANNON

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AEROSPACE: Space policy: Pt 2

