



10 DOWNING STREET
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From the Private Secretary

8 April 1987

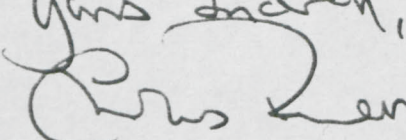
Dear John,

WESTLAND: SUPPORT HELICOPTERS

The Prime Minister has considered the Defence Secretary's minute of 7 April recording his further contacts with Sir John Cuckney about the future of Westland's Helicopter Divisions. Like the Defence Secretary, she is disappointed with the tone of Sir John's subsequent letter on the implications for manpower levels. She hopes that a further effort will be made to encourage Westland to present the prospects arising from the Government's orders positively, rather than focus on redundancies.

The Prime Minister is content with the draft statement, subject to amending the last sentence to read: "The package I am announcing will sustain a British helicopter industry..." I think that she would also be content with the draft reply to Sir John Cuckney.

I am copying this letter to Joan MacNaughton (Lord President's office), Tony Galsworthy (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Alex Allan (HM Treasury), Andrew Lansley (Office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster), Tim Walker (Department of Trade and Industry) John Turner (Department of Employment), Steven Wood (Lord Privy Seal's office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's office) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

(C. D. POWELL) —

John Howe, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.