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LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

13 August 1987

FRANCOIS BUJON

Francois Bujon, Chirac's Foreign Policy Adviser, telephoned me yesterday afternoon to express Monsieur Chirac's dismay at the rumours that the Board of Directors at British Airways were about to decide in favour for the purchase of Boeing 767s and MD11s instead of the Airbus equivalent. Monsieur Chirac was very concerned that this would have serious consequences for the Airbus programme, and hoped that the Prime Minister would feel able to put pressure on British Airways to reverse, or at least delay, their decision.

I reported this telephone conversation to the Prime Minister last night and, on her instructions, spoke to Monsieur Bujon this morning to confirm that I had passed the message on, but saying that, since British Airways had been privatised, they must be allowed to make their own commercial decisions, and it would not be usual for the Government to intervene in these. Monsieur Bujon took this perfectly well.

I am copying this letter to Paul Steeples (Department of Trade and Industry).

P A BEARPARK

Jonathan Cunliffe, Esq.
Department of Transport

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