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cc/B

PRIME MINISTER

NBR

ESA MINISTERIAL MEETING : 9/10 NOVEMBER 1987

1. ^{Alar} Kenneth Clark sent me a copy of his minute to you dated 20 October in which he set out the line he proposed taking at the forthcoming ESA Ministerial Meeting. I wholly agree with the line he proposes, as you will have seen from a copy of my letter to him of 21 October.

2. On the particular proposals Kenneth makes in para. 2 of his minute to you I have these points:

- (i) Our strong resistance to any increase in the mandatory science budget is a UK Government position, not just that of the SERC. We should, if necessary, use our power of veto despite the likely animosity from other countries to which Kenneth later refers.
- (ii) The fundamental reappraisal of which Kenneth speaks in para. 2(iii) and (iv) of his minute should thus include reappraisal of the ESA science programme.
- (iii) I strongly endorse the aim of changing the attitudes towards industrial involvement and of seeking this wherever possible. It is not realistic to expect a great deal of private sector support for the mandatory science programme. Every effort must be made. But our main aim here is to inject greater financial reality and discipline into ESA's thinking in those areas where we acknowledge support to be primarily a responsibility of governments.
- (iv) We must consider very carefully how our overall approach can best be presented in a positive light, and the media briefed accordingly. Kenneth has made a useful

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start. I think that John Fairclough should be asked with Kenneth's officials and mine and with the help of the BNSc Management Board, to work out the further steps in this process.

3. I am copying this minute to the other members of E(ST), Sir Robert Armstrong and John Fairclough.

KB.

KB

Department of Education and Science

26 October 1987

AGROSPACE: Space PT3

