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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

13 February 1988

Dear Rosalind.

EUROPEAN TRANSONIC WIND TUNNEL

Thank you for your letter of 10 February about the European Transonic Wind Tunnel.

Chancellor Kohl's officials tackled me about this in Brussels on 11 February, but the Chancellor did not raise it directly with the Prime Minister (there were one or two other things to talk about). I explained that discussions were still going on between departments but that we hoped to reach a decision shortly. They seemed to have heard this before and were not very impressed. I said that the escalating costs caused us genuine difficulties. I could not forecast when we would be able to give a reply. But I would keep them posted on progress.

My impression is that we are likely to get a message from the Chancellor to the Prime Minister about this unless we are able to reply in about a month.

I am copying this letter to Ian Andrews (Ministry of Defence), Lyn Parker (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Jill Rutter (Chief Secretary's Office) and to John Fairclough (Chief Scientific Adviser).

Yours sincerely,

(C.D. POWELL)

Ms. Rosalind Cole,
Department of Trade and Industry.

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