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Dear Prime Minister, dear Margaret,

During our recent meeting at Chequers, there was unfortunately no opportunity to discuss the planned European Transonic Wind Tunnel. Permit me, therefore, to broach the subject in this fashion.

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I should first of all like to express my satisfaction at the fact that at the end of last year the British Government approved of Cologne-Porz as the site for the tunnel and that agreement thus exists on this point among the four governments concerned.

The start of construction of this important, large experimental facility now depends solely on the necessary funds being secured. The Governments of France, the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany have confirmed their financial pledges, leaving only Britain's confirmation - as announced last autumn - of its pledge to meet 28 % of the construction costs.

You are undoubtedly aware that the tunnel is of considerable importance in the endeavour to keep European aerospace industry competitive since the US Government has prohibited foreign industries from using its modern large-scale wind tunnels.

I would therefore be most grateful to you if you could seek to ensure that Britain's financial contribution is confirmed as soon as possible so as to avoid any further delay.

Yours sincerely,
(sgd.) Helmut Kohl

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