



CPC

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7th March 1988

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Dear Kenneth,

EUROPEAN COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of ^{11th} 31st January to Geoffrey Howe. I have also seen John Fairclough's letter to you of 18th February.

I can well see that there may be room for improvement in our approach to collaborative Science and Technology projects such as the European Wind Tunnel. I myself would like to see a clearer policy adopted on securing as host country a share of major new research centres and facilities and in ensuring that when these are located in other European countries our contribution (in manpower and money) is made with adequate safeguards in affordability and value for money.

But I am bound to disagree with what I see as the implication in John Fairclough's letter that collaborative procurement projects to meet specific military requirements fall into the same category as these broad Science and Technology programmes and that decisions on the one should in some way take account of the other. Certainly I should not think it right to adopt a procurement route other than that which the EPC had identified as that giving best value for money as a quid pro quo for developments in other areas. Moreover, given the recently strengthened arrangements which exist for close liaison

The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP



between our two Departments and the broad representation reflected in the EPC I would be disturbed to see another layer of bureaucracy added to the already very taut arrangements for scrutinising military procurement projects.

It follows from this that whilst I am by no means against John's suggestions as regards broad Science and Technology programmes I would not see them as applying to military procurement programmes. Nor do I see any need for the Cabinet Office to compile a central register of such programmes.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Geoffrey Howe and other members of E(ST) and to Sir Robin Butler and to John Fairclough.

Yours truly,
George

George Younger

AGROSPACG: A320 PT3

