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From John W Fairclough FEng
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W0439

Rt Hon George Younger TD MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1

16 March 1988

CDP
17/3.

Dear Secretary of State.

EUROPEAN COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

I have seen your letter of ¹⁷ March to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

I think I can reassure you. First, there is no intention on my part to add another layer of bureaucracy. My purpose is to use existing machinery to greater effect. I believe a clear list shared between us of what major decisions are to be taken, by whom and on what schedule. I certainly do not wish to complicate the established decision making processes in EPC or elsewhere.

Secondly, there is no presumption on my part that there will be trade-offs in our separate international negotiations or in particular between collaborative procurement projects and civil scientific ventures. My point is more straightforward. We should be doing ourselves a disservice if we overlook synergies between separate negotiations which could be helpful to our overall objectives. Furthermore, whether or not we link separate negotiations, however loosely, we should at least be alive to the possibility that our partners may perceive them as part of an overall picture.

I hope that you will have no objection to our proceeding now as I suggested.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke and other members of E(ST) and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN W FAIRCLOUGH

AGROSPACB : A320 PT3

