



FCS/88/184

CD 5/11

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

Future Requirement for Support Helicopters

1. Thank you for copying me your minute of 3 November to the Prime Minister.
2. I am content with the course of action you propose. From the account you give, it does not appear that Westland would have strong grounds for resisting it. It seems right to distance ourselves from a project increasing so rapidly in price, and to return to more competitive procurement procedures. Although the Utility variant is being developed nationally, the Italians have an interest in it. I hope that your officials will inform them of the action you are taking.
3. I am copying this minute to the recipients of yours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Howe'.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
8 November 1988