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LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

9 November 1988

FUTURE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPORT HELICOPTERS

The Prime Minister has read the Defence Secretary's minute of 3 November and is very disturbed to learn of the expected delay and greater cost of the EH101s. Subject to the views of colleagues, she agrees there is no alternative but to delay the full Project Definition stage. She also agrees that we should re-examine urgently the alternatives to the EH101. At the same time, she hopes that the Defence Secretary will bring very strong pressure to bear on Westland to improve their performance.

It might be helpful if the Defence Secretary were to report orally to OD when it meets later this month on another matter.

I am copying this letter to Stephen Wall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Alex Allan (H.M. Treasury), Neil Thornton (Department of Trade and Industry), Carys Evans (Chief Secretary's Office) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

C. D. POWELL

Brian Hawtin, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

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