

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR LEON BRITTAN, QC

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

RUE DE LA LOI, 200

1049 BRUSSELS - TEL. 235 25 14

235 26 10

PRIVATE

Thank you for your letter of 24th May 1989.

[In her speech in the House of 27th January 1986 the Prime Minister quoted the gist of what both her officials and the Department of Trade and Industry officials told Sir Robert Armstrong's inquiry. Her conclusion that there was a genuine difference in understanding between the two sets of officials was in accordance with that formed by Sir Robert Armstrong. My own statement, not surprisingly, reflects what the Department of Trade and Industry officials told the inquiry, as related by the Prime Minister to the House.

With regard to the facts, as opposed to their interpretation] I repeat and confirm what I said in the second paragraph of my speech in the House on 27th January 1986 (at column 671):

"My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has set out the facts relating to what has been called the "Westland saga", and particularly the circumstances relating to the disclosure of information contained in a letter of my hon. and learned Friend the Solicitor-General. She has done so in great detail. Some of the facts only she can know about whereas in other events I myself was closely involved. I can and do confirm that with regard to the facts within my knowledge, the account of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister is correct."

Robert Rogers, Esq.,
Clerk of the Committee,
Defence Committee,
Committee Office,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA.