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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

John Colston Esq
Private Secretary
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
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12/6

12 June 1989

Dear John

FUTURE REQUIREMENT FOR SUPPORT HELICOPTERS

WITH CPP?
The Chief Secretary was grateful for sight of a copy of your letter of 7 June to Charles Powell at No.10.

The Chief Secretary was concerned to learn that there will be a further delay before your Secretary of State will be ready to make a recommendation to colleagues about future purchases of support helicopters. He had hoped it would be possible to reach a conclusion this year, as OD wished, on the choice between the EH101 utility helicopter and alternatives including off the shelf purchase of Black Hawk and Chinook. This further delay in the EH101 utility programme must cast further doubts on whether it will be the right choice.

However, he understands the delay will not increase the cost of project definition, and he is therefore prepared to accept that a decision should be deferred until the Spring of 1990. No doubt, full studies of the other options will be available at the same time.

I am sending copies of this letter to Charles Powell, other Private Secretaries of OD members, and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours

Miss C Evans

MISS C EVANS
Private Secretary