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File
EAM/A: Juno

cc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBIN BUTLER

BRITISH-SOVIET SPACE PROJECT

You told me that Sir Geoffrey Pattie had asked whether the Prime Minister might be prepared to take part in a video endorsement of the British-Soviet Space Project 'Juno'. I have sought the advice of DTI who recommend against the Prime Minister's involvement at this stage, and the Prime Minister has herself endorsed this. I should be grateful if you could explain to Sir Geoffrey that the Government has consistently underlined the private sector-led nature of this project. The Prime Minister does not rule out a message at some appropriate time but feels that to send one now would risk misunderstanding about the project's relationship with Government.

CHARLES POWELL
12 September 1989

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