



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

From The Minister of State

15 September 1989

L Ma,
Thank you for your letter of 12 September to Ivon Brabazon. I am replying as I have taken over responsibility for space in the FCO from Simon Glenarthur.

Row
I endorse your decision to agree to the request from the Project Juno organisation to use the RAF Institute of Aviation Medicine for the medical tests involved in the final selection process.

As you say, there would undoubtedly be considerable media interest in the medical tests and your decision to give the press access to the IAM seems also to be the right one. To do otherwise would give credence to some in the media's belief that the Government is anti-space.

Similarly, I support your decision to release on special unpaid leave the 3 Service personnel and the Civil Servant who have volunteered for selection as one of the astronauts. In terms of Anglo-Soviet relations we should, as far as possible, take a positive attitude towards such a high profile initiative as Project JUNO, whilst making it clear that there can be no question of Government funding for the Project.

I am copying this reply to the other recipients of your letter.

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hinc.
The Hon William Waldegrave

Alan Clark MP
Minister of State on Defence Procurement
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2MB

cc: The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Eric Forth (DTI)
Robert Jackson (DES)

JE2AMP

AEROSPACE : Space Pity

