



THE DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORT

n.b.P.M.
BHP
18/7



CCP

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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TELEPHONE 01-276 3000

The Rt Hon Chris Patten MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 3EB

My Ref: C/PSO/8682/90

Your Ref:

Dear Chris,

117 JUL 1990

SOUTH EAST AIRPORTS

Thank you for your letter of yesterday about the Civil Aviation Authority's advice on airport and airspace capacity in the South East.

Officials here saw and were invited to comment on a draft of the report two working days before it was due to go to the CAA Board for approval. Like you, I was very conscious that the Authority's advice could give rise to widespread alarm, and I had a number of discussions with Christopher Tugendhat last week. It was only on Thursday that I concluded that the advice had to be published today, and its receipt marked by written reply, and I wrote to colleagues the following morning.

On the specific question of the maps, I pointed out to Christopher the possibility that the publication of these could give rise to concern, but he felt strongly that without them the report would be incomplete. I am sure you will agree that any suggestion that the report had been "laundered" by the Government would be highly - and deservedly - damaging.

We have given a great deal of consideration to the presentation of this report, and virtually every Member affected has been seen and briefed. They were, without exception, grateful for the briefing and very positive in their response.

Thank you for your two suggested amendments to my written statement. I was happy to take these on board.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister and other Cabinet colleagues, to Tim Renton, Bertie Denham and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours Ever,
Cecil

CECIL PARKINSON

AEROSPACE: Policy pr 6

