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11th September 1990

D. Cecil,

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Thank you for your letter of 10th August on the working group you propose to establish to consider the wider implications of airport development at the locations identified in CAP 570.

I am content with the terms of reference and would be happy for my Department to participate in the working group. I suggest your officials discuss with mine who might attend to represent our interests.

I think that the broadly based working group you propose will have an important role in discussing the wide-ranging issues involved in increasing runway capacity in the south-east of England. However, I think there may also be occasions when it would be useful to hold discussions within a more compact group, drawn solely from Government Departments, in order to address more freely than in a public forum those matters which there might be significant differences between Departments. I hope you may feel able to set up such an in-house grouping alongside the broader working group; I would of course be content for my officials to participate in both bodies.

The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP
Secretary of State for Transport



I am copying this letter to Cabinet colleagues, and to Tim Renton, Bertie Denham and Sir Robin Butler.

Tom King

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