

PRIME MINISTER

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Sir Austin Pearce rang me yesterday to warn us that British Aerospace would be announcing a number of closures over the weekend. These closures will involve 1,200 redundancies, largely at their plant near Leicester, but also near Hull and Lincoln. British Aerospace blame these closures on the cutbacks in the MOD's programmes, especially the bomber programme. Sir Austin tells me there are unlikely to be any redundancies at the Kingston plant which you will be visiting on 23 April.

WM

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18 March 1982