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D O Horne

You may have seen references in the press to a letter to me from the Solicitor-General following my letter to you of 3rd January. The Solicitor-General, on the basis of the evidence that he had seen so far, pointed out that my answer to your third question needed correction in one particular.

I am now writing to assure you that my answer indeed needs no correction because further evidence is available which it has not hitherto been necessary to provide to the Solicitor-General and which fully supports what I said to you in my earlier letter. I can confirm therefore that, as I said in that letter, there are indications available to HMG from both the other Governments and the companies concerned that a Westland link with Sikorsky/Fiat would be incompatible with participation by that company on behalf of the United Kingdom in the collaborative battlefield helicopter and NH 90 projects.

Yours sincerely

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