



CSB

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP
 Secretary of State for Transport
 Department of Transport
 2 Marsham Street
 LONDON SW1

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24 January 1986

Dear Nicholas

AIRPORTS BILL

I have seen your letter of 30 December to the Chancellor about two aspects of the Airports Bill which are likely to be particularly controversial in Parliament.

This letter is to record, before the Bill's second reading on Monday, my agreement that the pressures you describe, and particularly those for the separate privatisation of Stansted, should be resisted robustly in the way you propose. There are powerful and cogent arguments about the system characteristics of the London airports to support the privatisation of Stansted as part of the BAA Company. I suggest that we should base our defence against pressure for the separate privatisation of Stansted on these arguments and we should not in any circumstances imply that our proposal is based on any view about likely proceeds. Such an implication would seem more likely to fuel the pressure for change than to reduce it.

I am copying this letter to the PM, other members of E(A), Sir Robert Armstrong and the Chief Whip.

John Moore

JOHN MOORE

AEROSPACE: Future of BA: Pt 4

