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16 July 1986

Jean Nigel,

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE ON WESTLAND

ATTACHED
The Attorney General has seen a copy of Sir Robert Armstrong's minute to you of 15 July.

A report on the back page of Monday's "Daily Telegraph" suggested that in the Committee's Report there would be "some upbraiding about the 'ambiguous' position adopted by Sir Michael Havers, Attorney General, and more especially for an apparent lack of support to Sir Patrick who was outraged by the leaking of his letter". The first item on ITN's "News at Ten" last night reported that it was believed that the Select Committee would criticise the Attorney for asking for an inquiry when he knew who was responsible for the disclosure. That item is summarised on page 2 of today's "Today". If these accounts of the contents of the Committee's Report are accurate, I need hardly say that the criticism of the Committee is wholly unjustified. Moreover the Attorney has not at any time been asked by the Select Committee about the Inquiry.

The Attorney would therefore wish to have an advance copy of the Committee's Report so that he may read any criticism before it is published and consider what response he should make on publication. He has asked that the draft letter from the Lord Privy Seal to Sir Humphrey Atkinson should be amended to take account of his position.

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I am copying this letter to Sir Robert Armstrong, and the other recipients of his minute to you.

Your sincerely,

Michael Saunders.

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