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Prime Minister

It is clear that GEC,  
interest is stimulated  
by some lobbying. I  
am not aware that  
they've ever shown interest  
in helicopters before.

ms

CDP  
12/12.

MO 26/16/1

PRIME MINISTER

WESTLAND plc

Following the discussion at Cabinet this morning, I received  
/ on my return to the office the attached letter dated today from  
the Chairman of GEC. It is a further example of the concern  
within British industry about the implications of one part of  
our Defence industrial base passing into effective American  
control.

2. I am copying this minute and the enclosure to the other  
members of the Cabinet and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Ministry of Defence  
12th December 1985

THE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, plc.  
1 STANHOPE GATE · LONDON W1A 1EH

01-493 8484

FROM THE CHAIRMAN  
THE RT. HON. JAMES PRIOR, MP

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP,  
Secretary of State for Defence,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Main Building,  
Whitehall,  
LONDON SW1A 2HB.

12th December 1985



WESTLAND plc

We had a word about this in the Lobby last evening and I have had a discussion with Arnold about it this morning. This is to let you know that GEC would give full support and be prepared to take a financial interest in the proposed European Consortium, if this would be helpful to you. Furthermore, we could advance alternative proposals if the Consortium fails to materialise.

We know that your time is short, but as there is a very strong national interest involved we are ready to give such backing as would be necessary to retain a European capability.

