

THE RT HON DR DAVID OWEN MP

CMA



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

12th December 1983

The Rt.Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London SW1

R 14/12

David Owen

I gather from Sir Austin Pearce that British Aerospace has made a presentation to you on the request for launch aid for the 150 seat A320 Airbus.

I have looked carefully into their request and grounds on which they believe that launch aid is vital if they are to remain a 20% shareholder in Airbus Industrie. I believe they have a well-founded case and hope your Government will grant them sufficient launch aid. I do not see any similarity to Concorde. This seems basically a commercial operation with some risks attached, but not unreasonable risks, and in the long-term raises technological consequences if Britain was not to remain a shareholder in Airbus Industrie.

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Aerospace Sept 83

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