



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 February 1985

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cc Sir R Nicholson

Dear Sir John,

I was most grateful for your letter of 6 December about co-ordination of British space policy, which was a valuable input to our recent discussions on this subject within Government.

As you will now know, Geoffrey Pattie announced before he left for the Ministerial Council of the European Space Agency in Rome that the Government has decided to establish a British National Space Centre. This Centre will be charged with improving the development of space technology in the UK and ensuring the effective co-ordination of national space policy. I am sure that you and your colleagues in the scientific community will have welcomed this announcement.

We now need to make sure that the Space Centre works, and that we achieve an appropriate reward for this country from the talents of our scientists and engineers and from the taxpayer's money which will be spent on space. I look forward to the positive response from the scientific community which you promise in your letter, and I hope that you will have further valuable discussions with the Government in the coming months as the Space Centre takes shape.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Sir John Mason, CB, FRS.

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