



MO 32/4

NPPM
CND 30/6FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARYCUSTOMS RELIEF ON IMPORTS OF DEFENCE EQUIPMENT

Thank you for your minute of 4th April about the Commission's decision to issue Reasoned Opinions against the UK and a number of other Member States on the waiver of duty on imports of certain defence equipment.

2. I understand from officials that the FRG may now be seeking an accommodation with the Commission and, as a result, will not be among the recipients of Reasoned Opinions. This clearly weakens the hitherto united front against the Commission, particularly as the FRG would have been a very valuable ally in this argument. Nevertheless, for the reasons set out in your letter, I agree that we should use all means to try to deflect the Commission. I have therefore written as you proposed to my colleagues in the FRG, Italy, Denmark and the Benelux countries.

3. I am copying this minute to the other members of OD and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

WPH
Ministry of Defence
26th April 1985

Trade Pt 4

Don-Tarriff Barros

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