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CDP

16/12

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13th December 1985

De Nicholas

CHANNEL FIXED LINK

Thank you for the copies of your letters of 25th and 26th November to Geoffrey Howe.

I do not feel that it will be necessary for the Ministry of Defence to be directly represented on the proposed Inter-Governmental Commission on the Channel Fixed Link; as you say it will always be possible for particular experts to be co-opted. I will, however, wish to see a member of the Commission specifically charged, as part of his duties, with representing defence interests as necessary.

I have no comments upon the draft Treaty and agree that it should be finalised on the lines proposed.

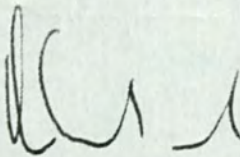
The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP



On compensation, I note that you may wish to return to the question of termination on defence grounds compared with political cancellation, if it proves to be a sticking point with a promoter. I agree that in those circumstances we will need to re-examine the question, but meanwhile I believe we should retain the distinction.

As to the question of Inter-Governmental compensation for unilateral termination or interruption I am content to proceed as you suggest.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister ✓ the Home Secretary, members of E(A) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever


Michael Heseltine

TRANSPORT: Channel Tunnel : Pt 3 .

