



PM/83/79

PRIME MINISTERCOCOM - Computers

1. I have seen Cecil Parkinson's minute of 10 October to you covering the steering brief for the next round of COCOM List Review discussions on computers, commencing 17 October.
2. I agree with the brief and with the points raised in Cecil's minute.
3. We have important interests at stake in these negotiations. We must resist US attempts to impose unrealistically tight controls on the export of computers to COCOM-proscribed destinations. We need to work for a compromise which both the Americans and our European partners can accept. We need to show the Americans that we want to make COCOM controls effective and that we will support them where we think they have a good case. We shall need to emphasise to them that the only way to achieve effective controls in COCOM is by reaching a consensus which all the partners regard as being to their advantage. We shall also need to ensure that the Americans are fully alive to the damaging consequences to our bilateral relations and to western cohesion that could flow from any US attempt to impose controls unilaterally.
4. I am copying this minute to members of OD Committee and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Prime Minister

The Foreign Secretary agrees with
the trade secretary's ~~proposals~~
proposals. A.S.C. 13/10. *with A.S.C.?*

GEOFFREY HOWE

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

13 October, 1983