



At
ccpc
JH

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 September 1985

EUROPEAN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT

I enclose a copy of Senor Gonzalez' reply to the Prime Minister's message of early August urging Spain's participation in the EFA project definition.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Colin Budd (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

C D POWELL

Richard Mottram, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence

Ry



SPANISH AMBASSADOR

24 BELGRAVE SQUARE
LONDON SW1X 8QA

25th September 1985

cejk
NDPM

CDP
2579.

Dear Prime Minister

I have much pleasure in forwarding a letter addressed to you by Don Felipe González, President of the Spanish Government, that has just reached me.

For your convenience I am also enclosing an unofficial translation.

Very sincerely

Jose J. Puig de la Bellacasa
JOSE J. PUIG DE LA BELLACASA

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.

SUBJECT cc MasterOps

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 1573/85

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION. -

Presidency of the Government

Madrid, 2nd September 1985

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
and Northern Ireland,
LONDON.

Madam Prime Minister,

At the beginning of August I received, via your Embassy in Madrid, your letter relating to the construction of a European combat aircraft.

I would wish first to express my appreciation of your interest in Spanish participation in this programme. My Government believes in the great importance that participation, from the beginning, in the development and construction of a combat aircraft that is the consequence of cooperation between European countries, will have on wide sectors of Spanish industry. It has also given due weight to the importance to Europe, as a community of nations, that such projects have at the technological level as well as for this economic entity.

It was for this reason that I thought it proper to make a last effort aimed at maintaining the initial group of five countries as continuous participants in the programme, before Spain joined at the beginning of the definition stage of the combat aircraft agreed upon by England, Germany and Italy at the Turin meeting of Directors General for Armaments.

I am very pleased to be able to say that after a prudent lapse of time since that meeting, the Spanish Government yesterday agreed to empower its Director General for Armaments to sign the document drawn up at Turin.

Spain thus joins the new phase of the project with the wish and the hope that the initial group of five countries will be reconstituted in the near future, this being the objective that will continue to inspire our efforts.

I avail myself, Madam Prime Minister, of this opportunity to assure you of my highest consideration.

(Sgd.) FELIPE GONZALEZ MARQUEZ



EL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO

Madrid, 2 de septiembre de 1.985

Excma. Sra. Margaret Thatcher
Primer Ministro del Reino Unido
de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte
LONDRES

Señora Primer Ministro:

Recibí a principios de agosto, a través de su Embajada en Madrid, su escrito acerca de la construcción del avión de combate europeo.

Ante todo, quiero agradecerle su interés por la participación española en este programa. Mi Gobierno ha considerado de la mayor importancia para amplios sectores de la industria española la participación, desde sus inicios, en el proceso de desarrollo y fabricación de un avión de combate, fruto de la cooperación entre los países europeos. También ha valorado la trascendencia que para Europa, como comunidad de naciones, tienen proyectos de este nivel tecnológico y esta entidad económica.

Por ello, consideré adecuado hacer un último esfuerzo en la dirección de mantener el grupo inicial de cinco países como continuadores del programa, antes de que España se adhiriese al inicio de la fase de definición del avión de combate, acordada por Inglaterra, Alemania e Italia en la reunión de Directores Generales de Armamento de Turín.

Me es muy grato comunicarle que, transcurrido un plazo prudencial de tiempo desde aquella reunión, el Gobierno español ha acordado, en su reunión de ayer, autorizar a nuestro Director General de Armamento a proceder a la firma del documento elaborado en Turín.



EL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO

Con ello, España se incorpora a la nueva fase del proyecto, con el deseo y la esperanza de que se reconstruya en un futuro próximo el grupo inicial de cinco países, objetivo que continuará orientando nuestros esfuerzos.

Reciba, Señora Primer Ministro, el testimonio de mi más alta consideración,

Felipe González

Felipe González Márquez.