

PRIME MINISTER

UNIPART

You may have seen the recent House of Lords judgment which said that manufacturers do not have copyright protection for car spare parts. The judgment may have wider implications, but the note below gives a first assessment of the effect of the judgment on Unipart.

DN

(DAVID NORGROVE)

4 March 1986

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SRWAQH



TO: PS/Mr Morrison

cc PS/Secretary of State
PS/Mr Butcher
PS/Mr Whittingdale
PS/Secretary
Mr Mountfield
Mr Cochlin
Mr Meadway V2

FROM: Mrs C E D Bell
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3 March 1986

UNIPART PRIVATISATION

IMPLICATION OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS RULING ON COPYRIGHT PROTECTION

I understand that Mr Morrison enquired about the implication of the House of Lords ruling.

I spoke on the telephone to Mr Carver, Director of Business Strategy, BL, who had discussed this question with Mr Neill, Managing Director, Unipart, today.

Mr Carver said that BL had yet to make a full assessment of the implications of the ruling, but the first view was that the effect on Unipart would be broadly neutral. More competitors would come into certain sectors of the market, but Unipart too would be able to re-source some components and improve its margins. Mr Carver's preliminary assessment was that the ruling should not delay privatisation or reduce the price.

We shall be asking BL for a more considered assessment in due course.

Catherine Bell

MRS C E D BELL