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15 April 1986

NBPN.

Dear Tom,

OFFICIAL COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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*a Hacked-*

Thank you for your letter of 8 April. Both you and Brian Gilmore made the point strongly at the first meeting of E(RD)(O) that individual proposals could not be considered simply in isolation. My reading of the minutes (page 1, sub-paragraph a.) is that implicit note is taken of this.

I am sure that all present at the meeting understood what you were saying and accepted it to a large extent. I have to say, however, that E(RD), and hence E(RD)(O), have been given a clear set of initial tasks by E(A).

I don't think, however, that there is a real difference in our understanding of the situation. E(RD)(O) clearly must keep an overall view of the various initiatives on which it is advising Ministers; nevertheless, it must not be delayed by an inability to see the whole picture at any particular time.

I am copying this letter to members of E(RD)(O).

*Yours ever,*  
*Robin*

SIR ROBIN NICHOLSON