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*From the Private Secretary*

Sir Robin Ibbs

**NIMROD AEW**

You had a discussion with the Prime Minister this morning on the lessons to be drawn from the history of the Nimrod project. The Prime Minister said that she had not been satisfied that everything necessary was being done to avoid a repetition of the problems which had arisen over Nimrod. There had clearly been failures in both project definition and project management. You stressed the importance of management systems which would define the stages of a project, set clear time targets for completing them, and treat science not as a mystery with rules of its own, but as subject to the same discipline as all other aspects of a complex project.

The Prime Minister asked you to talk further to Sir Clive Whitmore about the scope for strengthening the management of projects within the Ministry of Defence to avoid a repetition of the Nimrod failure.

I am copying this minute to Sir Robert Armstrong and to Sir Clive Whitmore.

(C.D. Powell)

13 May, 1986

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