



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

Evan B.S.

16 June 1980

Dear Michael

P.S.A. EXPENDITURE ON NEW WORKS IN 1980/81

R. 12/8

I wrote to you on 16th May expressing concern that there was now doubt as to whether funds were available this year for the headquarters building of the United Kingdom Warning and Monitoring Organization (U.K.W.M.O.). You replied on 29th May that your Department had no money this year to embark on this new building.

requested -
I find this disturbing. My letter was written in the context of yours to Paul Channon of 16th April, which accepted that there might be a few schemes, planned for this year, which the Department concerned could not itself finance but which in the national interest could not be deferred, and that any such schemes identified would need to be put to colleagues collectively. I argued strongly that the new U.K.W.M.O. headquarters was such a scheme, and I referred to the operational advantages of the new building, particularly in terms of communications, which the U.K.W.M.O. required to enable it to operate at a high pitch of efficiency. All this was against the background of the present Parliamentary pressure in relation to civil defence.

It may be that an outcome of the current review will be that more money will become available for civil defence, but we have not yet reached that stage. Meanwhile I am convinced that it is in the national interest for the building of the U.K.W.M.O. headquarters to go ahead this year as planned. I understand that the P.S.A. estimate is £331,000 this year and £579,000 in total. If there are priorities to be determined, I think it would be right for the issue to be put to colleagues collectively.

I am sending a copy of this letter, as before, to Cabinet colleagues and Paul Channon, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*John
H.M.*

