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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1  
Telephone 01-~~3307822~~ 218 2111/3

Prime Minister.  
← Satisfactory progress.

Clive  
Was there any thing  
else that SAS  
needed? If so,  
we can sort that  
out too.

L Noisy area.  
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6th February 1981

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Dear Clive,

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO 22 SAS:  
TRAINING FACILITIES

In your letter of 7th January you asked to know when the SAS had settled satisfactory arrangements with British Airways for training facilities on wide-bodied aircraft. Discussions with British Airways have gone well and I can report that they will be making aircraft available to the counter-terrorist team at Heathrow so that they can get to know the aircraft layout and can devise suitable means of entry. They have also offered to help to familiarise team members with arrival ramp procedures so that in the event of an incident they could look over the hijacked aircraft without drawing attention to themselves, and they have given us access to technical information about the aircraft themselves.

In addition British Airways are making available their staff training mock-ups of aircraft cabins and flight decks for training the SAS in passenger evacuation techniques, needed after an assault. This is all most satisfactory to the SAS and, I should mention that British Airways have agreed to provide this assistance without any charge.

Once the SAS have built up their skills and experience on these types of aircraft they will be giving thought to whether they could use a British Airways wide-bodied aircraft in a more extensive anti-hijacking exercise, at a secure military airfield. British Airways would like to help us in this way when we are ready, subject to the availability of an aircraft without undue penalty to the airline, and to satisfactory arrangements being worked out on costs.

I should add that my Secretary of State entirely accepts the force of the Prime Minister's observations, recorded in your

C A Whitmore Esq

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letter, about sales related training charges. This is one aspect which the Minister of State, Lord Trenchard, is looking at urgently. Mr Nott will be minuting the Prime Minister shortly to report on the action in hand.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

*Yours ever,  
David Omand*

(D B OMAND)