



# Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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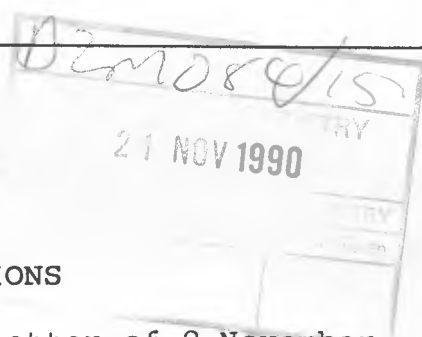
270-3133

D M Chuter Esq  
DACU  
Ministry of Defence

Your reference

Our reference MK4ACL

Date 14 November 1990



Dear David,

## CFE: DATA FROM OTHER NATIONS

1. Thank you for your letter of 8 November. You will by now have seen my letter of 9 November to Desmond Bowen and his reply of the same date.
2. I very much agree with Desmond's suggestion that it will be important to have the UK data in the Library of the House before it is handed over in Vienna. This points to placing it there this Friday, 16 November.
3. As to the data from other countries, I think that we are now all agreed that it will be unclassified, and therefore in principle available to all. But there are a number of practical arguments against actually dishing it out. In the first place, it will be a huge and (to all but the highly motivated and well initiated) indigestible stack of paper. The more people we (you) give it to, the more pressure there will be to provide explanations, translations, etc.
4. My strong inclination is, therefore, to allow access to it for those we consider reputable, but to concentrate on producing a digest of the information for MPs, journalists, etc. This digest could also be included in the Statement of Defence Estimates.

Yours ever,

*Matthew*

M J L KIRK  
Security Policy Department

cc: D J Bowen Esq, UKDel Vienna