

From: [REDACTED] NPD  
Date: 21 July 2000  
Reference: NPW087/003/00

cc: Heads:- News  
PRD  
NENAD  
MED  
[REDACTED], DESP, MoD  
[REDACTED], ECO, DTI

To: [REDACTED]  
PS/PUS  
PS/Mr Hain  
PS

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE - UK EXPORTS TO QATAR/[REDACTED] - ARTICLE APPEARING IN SUNDAY TIMES ON 16 JULY 2000

ISSUE

A

1. The Defence, Foreign Affairs, International Development and Trade and Industry Committees (Quadripartite Committee) have asked for a note on the allegations appearing in the Sunday Times on 16 July. A copy of the request from the Clerk of the Committees is attached.

TIMING

2. Immediate. The Clerk of the Committees has requested that the note be with him by 26 July so that it can be made available to Members before the summer adjournment.

PREFERRED OPTION

3. That PRD forward a reply to the Clerk of the Committees in the form of the attached draft letter.

BACKGROUND AND ARGUMENT

B

4. On 16 July an article appeared in the Sunday Times which alleged that the Government of Qatar intended to purchase defence equipment from UK companies and [REDACTED]. A copy of the article is attached.

5. The Quadripartite Committee have asked for a note on the allegations appearing in the article. I attach a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

C self-explanatory draft reply to the Committees. It has been cleared by DTI, MoD, NENAD and MED. Because the draft reply gives details of [REDACTED] MoD have asked that the information contained in the reply be provided to the Committees in confidence.

[REDACTED]

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NO. OF ATTACHMENTS: 0