

CONFIDENTIAL



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

J F Howe Esq
Private Secretary to the Secretary of
State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

CDP
2/12

2 December 1986

Dear John,

ALARM

The Chief Secretary has seen the Defence Secretary's minute of 24 November about the problems which have arisen over the ALARM programme. MOD officials have been keeping us in touch with progress and in the light of these reports you know that the Chief Secretary had already expressed his considerable concern about these developments, and had stressed the need for early notification to colleagues.

The Chief Secretary hopes that Mr Younger's further report can be made available quickly. He believes it important that this matter should not be allowed to drift on, but rather that there should be an early and substantive review of the ALARM project and a detailed assessment of the alternative options. He has asked that the alternative options include an accurate assessment of the costs and operational implications of cancelling ALARM and buying the US HARM missile - ALARM's original competitor which is already in service with US and FRG forces.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of OD and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours,

JILL RUTTER
Private Secretary

DEFENCE : Procurement . Pt 4

