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Secretary of State for Industry

23 July 1979

Bryan Cartledge Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW 1

*Dear Bryan*

LIGHTWEIGHT TORPEDO

My Secretary of State regrets that he will not be able to attend the OD meeting on 23 July, as he is making a statement to the House on shipbuilding.

I should, therefore, like to record briefly my Secretary of State's views on the Secretary of State for Defence's Memorandum OD(79)17. He endorses the conclusion that STING RAY should proceed and believes that it is providing a major opportunity for UK industry to gain experience in the application of advanced technology systems which will be of benefit not only to the UK capability in lightweight torpedoes, but generally in the field of advanced systems analysis and the application of microprocessors.

He would also suggest, however, that the industrial implications of major defence procurement decisions need to be taken into account as early as possible in the decision-making process. In circumstances where resources are inevitably restricted, my Secretary of State feels that it is important that the relative benefits to UK industrial capability of different defence requirements are assessed in the broad context of our industrial interest and the competition position of UK firms.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Members of OD and to Martin Vile.

*Yours sincerely  
Peter Mason*

PETER MASON  
Private Secretary

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