MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1

Telephone 01-XXXXXXXX 22 218 2111/3

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I attach the first of our regular reports on major defence sales contracts throughout the world for which Britain is competing. We propose to provide similar reports every quarter: is this about the right frequency?

The list covers the major prospects in terms of value and of significance to our defence sales efforts, based on our most up-to-date assessments, and broken down by country.

Mr Nott has asked me to say that he will be reporting separately to the Prime Minister on the questions arising from Clive Whitmore's letter to Brian Norbury of 22nd December on the proposals for further work in connection with defence sales. Mr Nott would be happy to discuss this list of major sales prospects with the Prime Minister.

I am copying this letter with its attachment to Francis Richards (FCO), Richard Tolkien (HM Treasury), Stuart Hampson (Department of Trade) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

(J D S DAWSON)
Private Secretary