

From: Geoffrey Pattie, M.P.



Seen by the
Prime Minister...

House of Commons,
LONDON, SW1A 0AA.

7th September 1981

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Dear Margaret,

I thought you would like to know that an extremely successful trial of Searchwater Radar was conducted on an RAF Nimrod off the coast of Scotland last Thursday. The trial was staged for the benefit of John Lehman the US Secretary of the Navy who was on board the Nimrod. Lehman said that Searchwater was 'miles ahead' of anything possessed by the Americans and he wants to have it fitted in their P3 Orion maritime reconnaissance aircraft.

Lehman is on an official visit here at my invitation and today I am taking him to the Naval Equipment Exhibition at Portsmouth. It is difficult to estimate the full value of a

Searchwater Radar deal but over 100 aircraft could be involved and so we could be talking at least of £150 million.

I did want you to know of this success because you share my own feeling of pride whenever Britain demonstrates a world lead.

British Aerospace also did us proud on Friday morning with an excellent presentation to Lehman on Harrier and Harsh. The major prize that we are going for now is for Harsh to win the contract to supply the US Navy with its new trainer. 350 aircraft are involved and the main competition is France-Germany. We may well need your help at the final stages!

The O.D. papers on torpedoes makes interesting reading but for me Gold's figures are not to be relied on any more than Gold are as a company, from what I have heard about them in the U.S.

Yours ever

John