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Minister of State
for Defence Procurement

D/MIN(DP)/RNF/MP/0052

22 August 1994

Dear Frank,

Thank you for your letter dated 27 July to Malcolm Rifkind regarding Trident Strategic Weapon System software. I have been asked to reply.

Taking your points in turn, I can first confirm that by using a mix of internal expertise and specialist contractor support the programme of software development for the targeting, modelling and effectiveness assessment of the Strategic Weapon System has been completed and that there are no outstanding problems. I am also pleased to confirm that the test firings of two Trident II D5 missiles by HMS VANGUARD on 26 May and 19 June, were fully successful, meeting our own expectations and proving consistent with US experience. No problems were experienced with the fire control and targeting software and, accordingly, there has been no need for any subsequent remedial work. In view of the success of both missile test firings, no changes are required to the number or timing of planned missile tests or to the in-service dates of the submarines themselves.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely
R Freeman

ROGER FREEMAN

Frank Cook Esq, MP
House of Commons