



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 01-930 7022

MO 26/7/4

28th August 1985

Prime Minister ⁽⁴⁾
for information.
MHA 29/8

Dear Charles,

SDI RESEARCH: UK PARTICIPATION

In my letter to you of 1st August, I enclosed the text of Mr Heseltine's letter to Mr Weinberger proposing that experts should now examine the possible terms and content of British participation in SDI research. Mr Weinberger has not responded himself to this letter but arrangements have proceeded for a meeting of experts which took place on 22nd-23rd August. The Prime Minister may wish to know the outcome.

At their meeting, the group formally adopted the demanding and detailed programme of work put forward by the British team. This will enable potential British contributions to be identified across a wider range of technologies and over a longer timescale than had been possible at earlier discussions. The group also began to identify the means of overcoming American procedural constraints on British participation; test cases will be worked through in detail by specialists on both sides. The group intends to complete all its investigations by 15th October.

I will keep you informed of progress.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the members of OD and E(A), to Rob Smith (Department of Education and Science) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

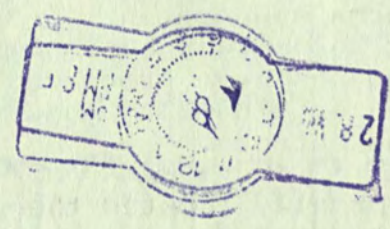
Yours ever,

(R C MOTTRAM)

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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