



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
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MO 5/21

15th June 1982

Dear John,

Type letter pl.

EXOCET MISSILES

A.S.C.  $\frac{5}{6}$

You wrote to me on the 1st June enclosing a letter which you had received from the Ambassador in Luxembourg forwarding a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Mr Jackson. I now attach a draft reply which you could send.

Pr 22

Pr 20

Yours ever

Nick Evans

(N H R EVANS)

A J Coles Esq

DEPT REPLY TO MR JACKSON

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 27 May enclosing proposal for defending our ships against Exocet missiles.

I have shown your paper to our experts in the Ministry of Defence and am informed that much of what you propose is in line with our thinking. In particular we were aware of the principle of seducing the missile by shifting the centre of its target.

I ought to add, however, that the effectiveness of decoys, whether active or passive, depends to a large extent on the conditions which prevail at the time that they are deployed, and they are by no means a guaranteed method of ensuring survival against a missile attack. Nonetheless, correctly deployed in conjunction with other measures, decoys and jammers have an important part to play and we have taken steps to improve this area of our defences. Obviously I cannot go into detail. In addition we have the hard-kill Sea Wolf anti-missile system whose capability is being enhanced to enable it to deal more effectively with sea-skimmers.

Thank you once again for troubling to write.

100 196.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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