

Subject: Defence
Sales Pt 3

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to Chequers 31/3.

The Prime Minister

Felipe González Márquez

Madrid, 20 February 1984

To Mrs Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of the
United Kingdom
LONDON

THIS IS
ON Pt 3
MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No.: T33A1184

Dear Prime Minister,

As soon as I received your letter of 16 January in connection with British Aerospace's offer to form a consortium with Spanish industry so that they could cooperate in coproduction of the "RAPIER" system, I informed my Minister of Defence of its contents and asked him to consider the arguments put forward in it.

As you know, at the moment, this low level air defence system is being considered along with three others: the American "Chaparral", the Franco-German "Roland" and the Italian "Skyguard-Aspide".

From our point of view, what concerns us most, apart from the efficiency of each system, is the impact that its acquisition might have on the level of technology of Spanish industry. In this respect, the "RAPIER" system offer is undoubtedly attractive.

At the moment, we have not yet finished assessing these four systems, although we hope to be able to make a final decision soon.

Yours etc.

(signed)

Felipe González