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20th April 1988

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Dear Malcolm,

You will recall that, following Scott Lithgow's failure to submit a satisfactory price for the range mooring vessel and two powered mooring lighters (offered to the Company after they failed to win a submarine order in 1986), arrangements were made last August to invite competitive tenders for the three vessels.

We have now completed the evaluation of tenders, including bids from Hall Russell, Ferguson Appledore and Ailsa, as well as Scott Lithgow, and I plan to announce on Monday that the contract for the range mooring vessel is to be placed with Richards Shipbuilders at Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth and that for the two powered mooring lighters with McTay Marine at Bromborough, Wirral.

I know that you will be a disappointed that at least one of these orders has not gone to a Scottish yard. The competition was very keenly fought and, for our part, I am pleased that we have been able to obtain these vessels at a total cost of £8.3M at current prices, compared to the £12.5M submitted by Scott Lithgow last year and well within the total of about £10M originally budgeted for them in 1985/86.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Lord Young, John Major, John Wakeham and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours Wk,
George

George Younger

The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind QC MP

21.11.1972
AMHS