



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

TELEPHONE 01-218 9000
DIRECT DIALLING 01-218 2111/3

TOP SECRET UK-EYES A

MO 18/1/1

MS

PRIME MINISTER

CHEVALINE

Prime Minister

Gloomy news!

And some major

*conditions will have to be met
(X/this) if the dates at the
end of paragraph 4 are to be
achieved.*

MS

2xi

While I propose to let you have a full report on the Chevaline programme next January I thought that I should keep you, and our MISC 7 colleagues, informed meantime, given the impact on the programme of the serious shortage of manpower at the Atomic Weapon Research Establishment Aldermaston and the Royal Ordnance Factory Burghfield.

2. The programme, as established in 1976, provides for the first operational missiles to be loaded into HMS RENOWN in June 1981 and for the second outload into HMS REVENGE, so providing a continuous patrol capability with the uprated system, the following year. The development programme, despite the technical complexity of the task, remains on target to meet these dates.

3. It is, however, now clear that production delays due to shortage of staff at Aldermaston and Burghfield make it impossible to hold to the outload dates as originally planned. The outflow of staff has continued throughout the industrial dispute which has just ended. The dispute has so far effectively nullified our efforts to stop existing staff leaving and to attract newcomers. The new Aldermaston allowance needs the backing of a bigger basic pay packet - which it has not so far had - if it is to have any real impact against the heavy competition for staff from firms in the area. It is now clear that full complements of re-entry bodies cannot be completed in time for RENOWN in June 1981 and REVENGE in the third quarter of 1982.

/4. ...

TOP SECRET UK EYES A



TOP SECRET UK EYES A

X | 4. It is important to maintain the impetus of the programme and to complete development on schedule by early 1981. Provided there are no unexpected setbacks, or further industrial delays, this should be achieved. Thereafter, provided certain critically important conditions are met - that the outflow of staff at Aldermaston and Burghfield is now reversed, that the Americans agree to a request which has been made to them for the supply of fissile materials, and that operations are re-established in the materials building at Aldermaston - it should be possible for RENOWN to deploy with a partial outload of missiles in June 1981 and receive her full outload in November 1981; and for a full outload to be available for REVENGE in early/mid 1983. If RENOWN were to be deployed with a partial outload of A3TK a second SSBN could be deployed with a full complement of 16 Polaris missiles. Like RENOWN, REVENGE would deploy initially with a partial outload.

5. I will keep you informed.

6. I am sending copies of this minute to the Home Secretary, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Sir Robert Armstrong.

77
/

1st November 1979

TOP SECRET UK EYES A



47

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

5 November 1979

Dear Brian,

CHEVALINE

The Prime Minister was grateful for your Secretary of State's minute of 1 November 1979 reporting the effect on the Chevaline programme of the serious shortage of manpower at the Atomic Weapon Research Establishment and the Royal Ordnance Factory Burghfield.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Chilcot (Home Office), George Walden (FCO), Tony Battishill (Treasury) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

- Yours ever,

Heri Whinn

B. Norbury, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

dB

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1

Telephone 01-9307022

CONFIDENTIAL

19th October 1979

MO 18/1/1

mf
Dear Clive,

From: Minister

JW
19x.

My Secretary of State has asked me to advise you that the series of Chevaline-related Polaris flight trials, which began in September 1977, is due to continue with an eighth launch from Cape Canaveral on 8th November.

Publicity arrangements will be the same as for the last launch on 1st September. A short notification will be issued locally to the media two days in advance but with publication embargoed until the time of the launch; no post-launch release will be issued unless something goes wrong. We shall do the same in the UK.

Our line in dealing with any subsequent Press enquiries will be the same low-key one as for the earlier launches.

Your Press Office will again be told immediately of the result.

I am copying this letter to George Walden (FCO) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours and
Brian

(B M NORBURY)

Clive Whitmore Esq
10 Downing Street

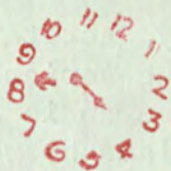
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone: 01-938 4000



19 OCT 1979



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① M. ~~Sydney~~
To see
② CF.
MS.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

22 October 1979

The Prime Minister has seen and noted your letter of 19 October 1979 about the next launch in the Chevaline flight trials.

I am sending a copy of this letter to George Walden (FCO) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

C. A. WHITMORE

Brian Norbury, Esq.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

Andy Jess, Confidential Flight

Please p.w. other types
Thanks.

CA

23/10

23 October, 1979

Polaris Flight Trials

We spoke recently about the system whereby No. 10 Press Office is informed, as a matter of routine, each time a Polaris flight trial has taken place. More often than not, this means a call during the silent hours to the duty press officer saying that the trial has gone according to plan.

I have discussed this with our Private Office and have agreed that in future No. 10 Press Office should be informed on the same basis as the Private Office of the Secretary of State for Defence - i.e. No. 10 Press Office should not be informed during silent hours except in the case of a serious mishap.

I would be most grateful if your instructions could be amended accordingly.

C. V. ANSON

J. K. Ledlie, Esq., O.B.E.,
Deputy Chief of Public Relations,
Ministry of Defence.

~~cc. Mr. Alexander/No. 10~~

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Defense



PRIME MINISTER

News has appeared on the PA tapes that the Cheveline flight which took place today was aborted because of a malfunction in the second stage of the flight. The missile was in the air for 1½ minutes. There is an enquiry into the cause of failure.

William

1 September 1979

Ken

Paul

no

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Defence



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone 01-836 7622 X 218 2111/3

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MO 18/1/1

- 1. ~~Mr. James~~ ^{QIAR} 60 211.
- 2. Prime Minister for information.

13th August 1979

Dear Bryan,

6/24
12/4

ms

CHEVALINE FLIGHT TRIALS - PUBLICITY

The series of Chevaline-related Polaris flight trials, which began in September 1977, is due to continue with a seventh launch from Cape Canaveral on 30th August.

Publicity arrangements will be the same as for the last launch on 5th July. A short notification will be issued locally to the media two days in advance but with publication embargoed until the time of the launch; no post-launch release will be issued unless something goes wrong. We shall do the same in the UK.

Our line in dealing with any subsequent Press enquiries will be the same low-key one as for the earlier launches.

Your Press Office will again be told of the result immediately.

I am copying this letter to George Walden (FCO) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,
David Omand

(D B OMAND)

Bryan Cartledge Esq
No 10 Downing Street

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113 AUG 1979

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



Defence.



(2)

10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister.

As you know a British
nuclear test was planned for
to-day. The test took place at
16.10 BST & the results were
satisfactory. A Press Statement
has been issued.

Ans

29/8

Ans

f.u. Ans 29/8

cc Press Office

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone 01-~~986 7022~~ 218 2111/3

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MO 18/1/1

14th June 1979

mt

- 1. Mr. Sanders *mys*
- 2. Prime Minister
for information.

*ogul
16/6*

Dear Bryan,

The series of Chevaline-related Polaris flight trials, which began in September 1977, is due to continue with a sixth launch from Cape Canaveral on 6th July.

*See JC Filing
Defence, Pt 4
[A] (OK)
Detonret*

Publicity arrangements will be the same as for the last launch on 4th April. A short notification will be issued locally to the media two days in advance but with publication embargoed until the time of the launch; no post-launch release will be issued unless something goes wrong. We shall do the same in the UK.

Our line in dealing with any subsequent Press enquiries will be the same low-key one as for the earlier launches.

Your Press Office will again be told of the result immediately.

I am copying this letter to George Walden (FCO) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

Roger Facer
(R L L FACER)

B G Cartledge Esq
No 10 Downing Street

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone 01 899 7029



15 JUN 1979



The series of character-related trials...
will be issued...
Your attention will be drawn to the fact...
I am copying this letter to...

(S. J. RAY)

10 Downing Street

SECRET

Defence

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JA



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 June 1979

Polaris Flight Trials

Thank you for your letter of 14 June about the next launch, due to take place on 6 July, in the series of Chevaline-related Polaris flight trials.

The Prime Minister has seen your letter and has taken note of the arrangements for the launch and for publicity concerning it.

I am sending a copy of this letter to George Walden (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

B. G. CARTLEDGE

Roger Facer, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence

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MB