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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

9 JUL 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY-OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Standardization/Interoperability Efforts on Tank Main Armament - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

12 JUL 1976

Nato 451.6

Subsequent to Mr. Augustine's and my meeting with Herr Eberhard and Dr. Triennes, we have initiated bilateral cooperative efforts with both the U.K. and the FRG in order to become more familiar with the status of their respective **120mm** cannon **development** programs. Our bilateral efforts with the FRG are aimed at providing data in response to concerns raised as a result of our visits to Brussels late June. Briefly, these concerns are the demonstrated barrel wear life of the FRG smooth-bore cannon, the effects of temperature and humidity on the combustible case ammunition, the existence of only a kinetic energy round and a multi-purpose round (for which a suitable fuze has not yet been developed) for the German gun, and the reported differences in target armor material stated by the Germans.

We must acquire enough data in this bilateral period to fully assess the capability of the German gun to ultimately meet the U.S. requirement. We are continuing our **discussions** with the FRG in order to gain a participatory role in any additional firings they make for their **system** prior to our desired March 1977 decision date.

Our efforts with the U.K. are also aimed at assimilating data on their **gun**, its performance, and its developmental status. A team of experts from the U.K. is scheduled to visit the U.S. on 12 July in order to provide detailed briefings on the program. The U.K. has shown a willingness to alter its planned **developmental** program if the U.S. desires to judge their systems' potential for standardization. They have further offered to provide one inventory gun and one improved gun, along with assorted rounds of ammunition for firing in the U.S. in the **September-October** timeframe with U.K., U.S., and FRG observers. During the visit on 12 **July**, we will iron out the details of accomplishing these tests.

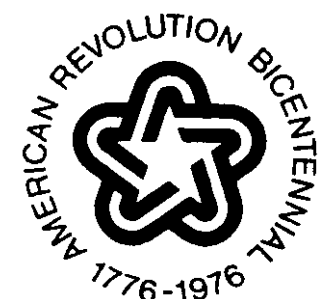
After fully assessing the data obtained in these bilateral efforts, it is our intention to convene a trilateral meeting and address in that forum the requirements and concessions which must be made to lead to a

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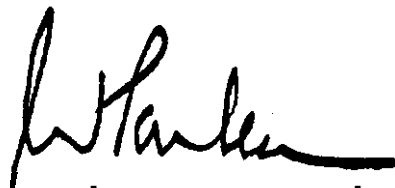
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single gun for adoption by all countries. Our objective is to conduct these negotiations such that a final decision can be made by all countries prior to the March 1977 timeframe currently scheduled for the completion of the LEO 2 comparative evaluation. We shall continue to pursue standardization/interoperability efforts in all phases of our main battle tank program very aggressively.

For your further information, Dr. **Currie** will meet with the armament directors of the three other countries (U.K., FRG, and France) in Paris on 21 July 1976. This will provide an opportunity for additional discussions of tank gun/ammunition activities.

In consonance with your guidance at the 29 June meeting on **XMI/LEOPARD 2** harmonization, the Army is working out a single proposed program to attain your standardization objectives. The program will provide the interfaces for the aforementioned actions and include formalization of both bilateral and trilateral organizations to support the effort. The proposed program is planned to be presented to you by the Army prior to 20 July, as directed.



Robert N. Parker  
Principal Deputy

