

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

The attached interim reply to Congressman Wright Patman of Texas regarding possible discontinued production of Minuteman Boosters is forwarded for signature by the Secretary of Defense.

SAFLL Action Officer: Lt Colonel Street, X-73376



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330



aw

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

15 JAN 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Minuteman Boosters
Congressman Wright Patman (TX) Interest - ACTION MEMORANDUM

Attached for your signature is a proposed interim reply to Congressman Patman's letter expressing concern over the possible discontinuation of production of Minuteman Boosters.

A substantive response is being prepared by the Air Force and will be forwarded for your signature in the near future.

Recommend your signature.

J. W. Plummer

J. W. Plummer
Under Secretary of the Air Force

Attachment

SEC DEF HAS SEEN

Coordination:

OASD(LA) *[Signature]*

Interim

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

JAN 19 1976

Honorable Wright Patman
Chairman, Joint Subcommittee
on Defense Production
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Wright,

Thank you for your letter of January 8, 1976 regarding the possible discontinuation of Minuteman boosters.

I have asked the Air Force to assemble the information to address your concern in this matter. You may expect a fully responsive reply to your inquiry in the near future.

I appreciate your continuing interest in Department of Defense programs and welcome the opportunity to be of service to you.

Sincerely,



WRIGHT PATMAN, TEX., CHAIRMAN
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Congress of the United States

JOINT COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE PRODUCTION
(CREATED PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 774, 81ST CONGRESS)
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 8, 1976

Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It has been brought to my attention that a major decision has been made regarding the production of Minuteman boosters. Specifically, the FY77 Defense Department budget, as it now stands, will not request any funds for the continued production of these boosters.

The consequences of this decision deeply concern me since this is the only ICBM booster in production in the United States. Further, the Defense Department and the Air Force have repeatedly stated that it would be imprudent to terminate Minuteman booster production until a SALT agreement was reached with the Soviets and ratified by the United States Senate. In view of these facts, along with the reports of the Soviets having four ICBM's in production, and the current status of SALT negotiations, it seems to me that this decision should be reevaluated. I would like to have a full and complete report on this matter at your earliest convenience.

With warm personal regards and best wishes,
I am

Sincerely,


Wright Patman
Chairman



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