

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

NOV 1 1976

The Honorable Georg Leber
Minister of Defense
Ministry of Defense
Postfach 1328
5300 Bonn I
Federal Republic of Germany

Dear Georg :

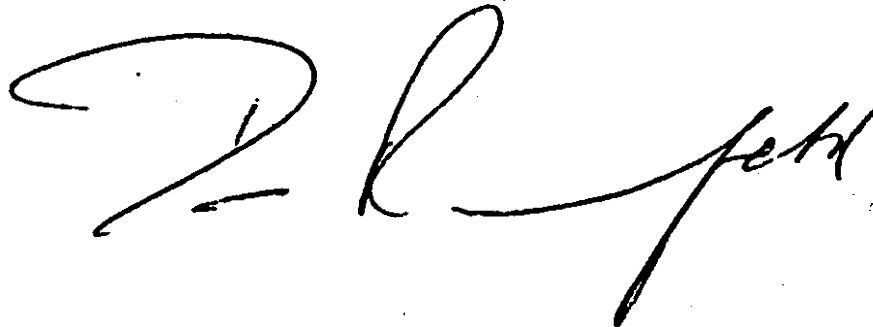
Thank you for sending the text of your recent letter to Fred Mulley on tank armament standardization. I appreciate and welcome your initiative to work more closely with the UK in this area, recognizing, as you put it, the "importance to all of us that the highest possible degree of standardization be reached."

When I met with Fred Mulley on October 15, he indicated he would be meeting with you soon and that the tank gun would be among the discussion topics. I urged him to work with you to seek an accommodation on tank armament. Fred suggested that the three of us get together to discuss this subject in London when we meet for the NPG. I think such a discussion could be useful in helping meet our mutual standardization objectives.

On the subject of tank armament, I recommend you consider the Belgian MAG-58 machine gun for possible incorporation in the LEOPARD 2. We will be using this weapon in the XM-1 and M60 tank fleets, and its adoption by the Federal Republic would provide another important point of commonality between German and American tanks and those of our other NATO allies.

With best regards.

Sincerely,



Nato 451.6

(22 Sept 76)





ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

In reply refer to:
I-10958/76ct
28 OCT 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

28 OCT 1976

SUBJECT: Letter to MOD Leber on Tank Gun Issue -- ACTION MEMORANDUM

On 22 September, Minister Leber forwarded to you the text of his recent letter to Minister Mulley concerning the tank gun issue (Tab B). Proposed reply at Tab A acknowledges Leber's communication and urges the FRG to seek accommodation with the UK on tank armament. Reply also supports Mulley's suggestion that Leber, Mulley and you meet on this issue on the margins of the forthcoming NPG and thus after the scheduled November 1-2 Mulley-Leber meeting.

Recommend you sign letter and approve sending copy to Minister Mulley.

The State Department concurs.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

Attachments
a/s

What letter & why
Eugene V. McAuliffe
Eugene V. McAuliffe
Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs

Coordination:

SecArmy Mr. Augustine, Under Secretary (attached)

DDRE Mr. Parker, Prin Dep (attached)

ASD(LA) Heberger 10/26

RECEIVED
OCT 28 1976
ED



mab
5/10/228



BONN, den 22 September 1976

VS-VERTRAULICH
amtlich geheimgehalten

Courtesy Translation

Dear Don,

Allow me to acquaint you with my views on the armament selection aspects communicated to you by Roy Mason, hoping that we shall eventually succeed in achieving the envisaged standardization among our three countries.

Sincerely yours,

signed Georg

His Excellency,
Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense of the
United States of America
Washington 25, D.C.

13785



J 10958/76 J
10/17/76

22 September 1976

VS-VERTRAULICH
amtlich geheimgehalten

Courtesy Translation

My dear Colleague,

I should like to offer some comment on Roy Mason's letter to Donald Rumsfeld concerning armament standardization which will, I hope, dispel your *concern*.

It is my opinion - and that is shared by Don Rumsfeld - that the most advanced and effective system must be selected as the main armament for future battle tanks. Above all, it is necessary that both the weapon and its ammunition be ready for series production by the beginning of next year and that their effectiveness has been demonstrated in live trial.

Otherwise, delivery of series-produced LEOPARD 2 battle tanks including the standardized components would *not* be possible in time, i.e. in the course of 1979, as scheduled.

I appreciate that the United Kingdom wishes to support the British development and see it realized.

The world-wide success of the 105mm rifled weapon which, incidentally, is used in all of our LEOPARD 1 battle tanks proves the British technological skill and expertise as applied in this gun.

His Excellency
The Right Honourable Fred Mulley, MP
Secretary of State for Defence
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland
Main Building, Whitehall
London S.W.1



VS-VERTRAULICH
amtlich geheimgelassen

I do not, however, share **Mr. Mason's** misgivings about a premature decision in favour of the German 120 mm weapon,

May I suggest that you **concur, also** as regards the timetable, in the arrangements agreed between the United States of America and the Federal Republic of **Germany, s ince** it is of equal importance to all of us that the highest possible degree of standardization be reached. Such synchronization would allow us to exploit the possibilities for standardization in full without causing any delay to the battle tank programme.

Moreover, this procedure would be designed to avoid any gap in our capability of **responding to the** threat.

The decision on the armament to be taken in early 1977 will, in my view, have to take all the relevant **aspects** into consideration. The participating countries will have to find a **way**, by agreeing on generous licensing arrangements, to ensure that the economic **consequences** of the decision will be advantageous to all the **parties** concerned.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Don Rumsfeld in the interest of continued good cooperation.

Sincerely yours,
signed **Georg Leber**



VS-VERTRAULICH
amtlich geheimgehalten

Dear Dan!

Ich erlaube mir, zu den von Roy Mason Ihnen
übermittelten Gesichtspunkten zur Waffen-
auswahl meine Gedanken darzulegen in der Hoff-
nung, daß wir letzten Endes doch zu dritt die
uns vorschwebende Standardisierung erreichen
können.

Sincerely yours
Henry

Seiner Exzellenz
dem Verteidigungsminister
der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika
Herrn Donald Rumsfeld
Washington 25 D.C.





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Recommend you sign letter and approve sending copy to Minister Mulley.

The State Department concurs.

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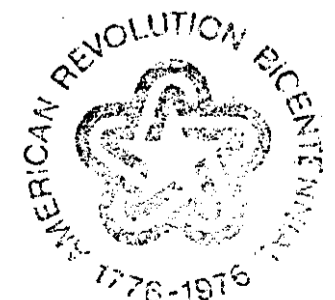
DISAPPROVE _____

(Signed)
EUGENE V. MSAULIFFE
Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs

Coordination:

acting for SecArmy LEA *modified* *21 Nov 76
DDRE _____
ASD(LA) _____

* NOTE - MR AUGISTINE'S CONCURRENCE
IS VALID FOR REVISED DRAFT
(per GI TOOD, Exec to USA, 21 Oct)





ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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Coordination:

SecArmy _____

DDRE Paul 22 OCT 1976

ASD(LA) _____

IF - ^{concur} deJonge (previous draft) OK 27 Oct

TWP - Horton (will provide comment)

