

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 4, 2001

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

The national security of our country is a concern shared by you and all of the undersigned Members of Congress. In order to ensure that America's defenses are sound, we take seriously the oversight role of the House, and we strive to work with the military forces to fulfill that responsibility.

On September 8, 2000, the Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs, and International Relations of the House Committee on Government Reform held a hearing on the National Missile Defense (NMD) system. At that hearing, the Director of Operational Testing and Evaluation, Mr. Philip Coyle, indicated that his office had issued a non-classified report addressing the testing aspects of the NMD program. Mr. Coyle agreed to make the report available to the Subcommittee, which voted unanimously to make it part of the hearing record. The Chairman of the Subcommittee, Rep. Chris Shays, issued an October 4, 2000 letter reiterating this request.

Through the Pentagon's legislative office, it has come to our attention that the Department of Defense is refusing to honor the Subcommittee's request for Mr. Coyle's report. To date, the Subcommittee has received no formal response from the Department of Defense regarding the report, despite receiving responses to several other questions posed for the record.

On February 14, 2001, Brigadier General Ronald Kadish responded to some of the Subcommittee's questions. He stated numerous times, however, that he could not address some issues because "the entire NMD program (including development, testing, and development schedules and strategies) has been restructured" since the September hearing. Yet, during a news briefing a week later, Rear Admiral Craig Quigley stated the following:

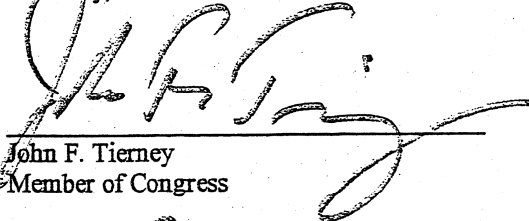
Secretary Rumsfeld's direction to General Kadish has been to proceed with the approved test plan, as it exists today . . . So today he's making no long-term commitments that this is going to be the plan that will ultimately be followed, but for today, the guidance is, 'Proceed until I tell you otherwise.'


Regardless of whether or not General Kadish in fact has changed the testing plan, Mr. Coyle's report offers valuable information. If the plan has been changed, Mr. Coyle's report provides a yardstick with which to measure its progress. If it has not, the report may point out deficiencies that still need to be remedied.


Either way, the undersigned believe the Pentagon's refusal to provide this unclassified report to the Subcommittee with direct oversight responsibility is inappropriate and unacceptable. This document is integral to the Subcommittee's core functions, and to the considered judgment of all Members of Congress as they evaluate the National Missile Defense program. We do not believe shielding it from Congress serves the security of this nation. In fact, we believe the opposite is true.

You are requested to deliver Mr. Coyle's report to the Subcommittee forthwith, in its entirety, and without alteration.

Sincerely,

  
John F. Tierney  
Member of Congress

  
Henry Waxman  
Member of Congress

  
Les Skelton  
Member of Congress

Cynthia McKinney

Pat A. Brady

Hayd D. Scott

Jim McParron

Jan Schabert

Vic Snyder

~~John G.~~

Neil Abernethy

Elijah F. Zimmerman

Tom Allen

Walter H. H.

Jim Langerin

Don Rodriguez

Bob Blagojevic

Wm. Lacy Clay

Jim Jones

Edmund Tausch

John Spatt

Juan A. Davis

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Bob Smith

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Paul E. Kanjoush

Major K. Chen

Gene Taylor

Courtesy B. Maloney

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John B. Lawson

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Iris Maloney

Greg Blum

Sam Law

Mike Alford

Gregory W. Meeks

David F. Berner

Signatures (55):

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Henry A. Waxman  
Ike Skelton  
Cynthia McKinney  
Robert A. Brady  
Lloyd Doggett  
James McGovern  
Jan Schakowsky  
Vic Snyder  
Silvestre Reyes  
Neil Abercrombie  
Elijah E. Cummings  
Tom Allen  
James Langevin  
Ciro D. Rodriguez  
Rod Blagojevich  
William Lacy Clay  
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