



CANADA

DEFENCE RESEARCH BOARD

SECRET

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN  
OTTAWA

13th April 1954

Dear Mr. Martin,

Following our conversation today I have looked up my notes on the Cabinet Defence Committee meeting of January 29th. I have attempted to reconstruct what I said from the very brief notes that I kept.

As I recall it, I gave the Committee a brief review of the history, progress and cost of the Velvet Glove programme. I then said that we required immediate decision on three problems:

1. A general confirmation of the decision to build an air-to-air missile in Canada and a re-affirmation of the need to press on with the programme at top speed.
2. Authority to seek an adequate supply of klystrons on whatever appeared in the near future to be the best basis. I explained that discussions were under way with Varian Associates for the manufacture of their klystrons in Canada but we were not yet sure that this was the best solution to the problem.
3. An immediate decision to start placing contracts for 70 prototypes needed for service evaluation trials.

I also said that if this programme were followed a need would arise to make the first decisions on production before the end of 1954. It was my understanding that the Cabinet Defence Committee agreed that all these things should be done and left it for DRB to work out the details with DDP. This was certainly not said in so many words but there was no evidence of any dissent from the recommendations that I made.

As I said over the phone both DRB and DDP have acted as if the Cabinet Defence Committee had in fact approved the recommendations. There is therefore no need to seek an amendment to the minutes. I assume that you want this information merely to complete the record.

Yours sincerely,

Chairman,  
Defence Research Board.

Mr. W. R. Martin  
Privy Council Office  
East Block  
Ottawa, Ontario

Omond McKillop Solandt, by Avro Museum

PCO  
C-20-9(a) 1954  
Cabinet Defence Committee

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