



DMND to Pearkes.jpg

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4 April, 1979.

Major General The Honourable
G.R. Pearkes, VC, PC, CB, DSO, MC,
1268 Tattersal Drive,
Victoria, British Columbia.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to advise that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is preparing a special program on the CF105 Avro Arrow and that they have asked the Department of National Defence to grant them access to files on the subject. We have declined their request because the files have not yet been declassified.

They approached us again more recently and asked whether we had anything on record which could serve to verify statements made in the House of Commons in July, 1959 by Mr O'Hurley, the then Minister of Defence Production, to the effect that the order to scrap the prototype aircraft had come from the then Minister of National Defence.

After an extensive search of our files, we did indeed find correspondence dealing with the subject. All of it is unclassified and outlines the considerations that led to the decision that the aircraft should be scrapped. While a case could conceivably be made to release copies of the correspondence to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and other interested agencies, it is my judgement that such a move would be a breach of trust. I have therefore sent the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation a letter which provides them with certain information but which also explains why I could not agree to release the correspondence.

PROTECTING HIM!
Nothing to do with
national security.

I thought that, as a matter of courtesy, you should be made aware of these developments and furthermore that you should have a copy of the letter I have sent to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. I am also sending you copies of the correspondence we have found in our files in the event that you want to refresh your memory on the subject as it has been twenty years since these events took place.

These files would include those
copied in this package, but
by no means does it infer
that all of them have been
released.

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I should advise that under the provisions of the proposed Access to Information legislation, the correspondence may eventually have to be released. However, in the meantime I do not propose to make it available to the public.

Obviously his discretion,
note expiry of so-called
30 yr. rule in dateline.

In closing, I would like to state that a similar letter along with attachments has been sent to Air Chief Marshal Miller and Air Marshal Campbell.

I take this opportunity to extend my warm regards and best wishes.

Yours truly,

C.R. Nixon

C.R. Nixon

Attachments:

4619