



Mr Charles Millon  
Minister of Defence  
14, rue St - Dominique  
75007 Paris  
FRANCE

**Minister**

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 17 January 1997 addressed to me, which reads in the English translation:

“Minister

I am delighted with your decision to employ the Mistral missile of the Matra defence Company for the equipment of your armed forces. Your services signed a contract with Matra on 23 October 1996.

Certain information relating to this missile is subject to French regulations concerning the protection of national defence secrecy. This information cannot be communicated to the government of a foreign country unless the latter undertakes to accord the information measures of protection equivalent to those it has on French Territory.

In order for you to be aware of these security measures, please find enclosed a document which details the main provisions of the French regulations concerning the protection of defence secrecy (in French and English).

I would be grateful if, once you have examined this document, you would undertake, in the name of your government, to respect the provisions of the document and therefore to accord the protected information relating to this material measures of protection equivalent to those currently accorded it by the French Government.

In applying these provisions, the handing over of protected information originating from France to New Zealand nationals can only take place on the basis of a security document which will have been despatched beforehand by my services, in order to specify the protected information as well as the levels of protection which apply to it.

If the New Zealand government is in agreement with the above proposal, I would like to suggest that this letter and your response to it constitute an agreement between our two Governments, which will take effect as of the date of your reply.

Yours faithfully  
Charles MILLON”

I have the honour to confirm that the above proposal is acceptable to the Government of New Zealand and that your letter, together with this reply shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments which shall take effect on the date of this reply.

*Paul East*

Hon Paul East  
Minister of Defence

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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

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17 JAN. 97 - 000174

*Le Ministre de la Défense*

Monsieur le Ministre,

Je me réjouis du choix que vous avez fait en retenant, pour l'équipement de vos forces armées, le missile Mistral de la société Matra défense avec laquelle vos services ont signé un contrat le 23 octobre 1996.

Certaines informations relatives à ce missile sont soumises à la réglementation française sur la protection du secret de défense nationale. Elles ne peuvent être communiquées au gouvernement d'un pays étranger que si celui-ci s'engage à assurer à l'égard de ces informations des mesures de protection équivalentes à celles dont elles bénéficient sur le territoire français.

Afin de vous permettre de prendre connaissance de ces mesures de protection, je vous prie de bien vouloir trouver ci-joint un document exposant les principales dispositions de la réglementation française sur la protection du secret de défense (versions française et anglaise).

J'ai l'honneur de vous demander, lorsque vous aurez procédé à l'examen de ce document, de bien vouloir vous engager, au nom de votre gouvernement, à en respecter les dispositions et à accorder ainsi aux informations protégées relatives à ce matériel des mesures de protection équivalentes à celles qui leur sont actuellement assurées par le gouvernement de la République française.

En application des présentes dispositions, la remise d'informations protégées d'origine française à des ressortissants néo-zélandais ne pourra avoir lieu que sur la base d'un document de sécurité qui vous aura été préalablement transmis par mes services, afin de préciser les informations protégées ainsi que les niveaux de protection qui leur sont applicables.

Son Excellence M. Paul EAST  
Ministre de la Défense  
Nouvelle-Zélande

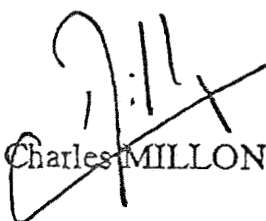
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Si les propositions qui précèdent recueillent l'agrément du gouvernement de la Nouvelle-Zélande, j'ai l'honneur de vous proposer que la présente lettre et votre réponse constituent un accord entre nos deux gouvernements, lequel prendra effet à la date de votre réponse.

Je vous prie de croire, Monsieur le ministre, à l'assurance de ma haute considération.

  
Charles MILLON

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Begins

Final Translate

"Minister

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Charles Millon"

Ends