

From: min.dfaitmaeci@international.gc.ca
[<mailto:min.dfaitmaeci@international.gc.ca>]
Sent: May 7, 2008 11:59 AM
To: adele-buckley@rogers.com
Cc: Prentice.J@parl.gc.ca
Subject: A04893-2008 IN REPLY TO YOUR EMAIL OF MARCH 11, 2008

Dr. Adele Buckley
Executive Committee, past Chair
Canadian Pugwash Group
adele-buckley@rogers.com

c.c. Prentice.J@parl.gc.ca

Dear Doctor Buckley:

Thank you for your email of March 11, 2008, in which you express your concerns over the proposed sale of MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates (MDA) Ltd. Information Systems Divisions, which include MDA Space Systems and Geospatial Services Inc. to Alliant Techsystems (ATK) Inc.

My colleague the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Industry, has issued an initial rejection of the proposed sale under the Investment Canada Act, pending a 30 day period in which ATK may make further representations in support of the sale.

I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that the preservation of priority access to satellite data is important to the Government of Canada. The Remote Sensing Space Systems Act, for which I am the Minister responsible, was prepared with such an objective in mind. Any remote sensing space system operated from Canada must be licenced under the Act and, as such, the Government will retain its access to satellite data and products in support of our national priorities.

Correspondence such as yours serves to reinforce the importance of space capabilities and, remote sensing data in particular, to Canadians in the service of Canada's interests.

Thank you again for writing and sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Maxime Bernier
Minister of Foreign Affairs