



Ministry of National Defense

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The Honorable Rob Simmons
Member of Congress
United States House of Representatives
215 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rob:

It is my pleasure to send my greetings to you in this letter. Meanwhile, I would like to express a great extent of appreciation regarding the submarines case beforehand.

When I last met with you in February at the Ministry of National Defense in Taipei, you asked me to keep you informed of Government of Taiwan's efforts to purchase from United States up to eight diesel-electric submarines. I am pleased to tell you that the President of Taiwan included in his new defense budget funding to begin work on a deal to buy diesel submarines made in the U.S. I think you will agree that this is an historic development in the relationship between our two countries.

Your efforts were critical to helping Taiwan and the United States reach an acceptable procurement strategy for the submarines. The Simmons Plan - an innovative proposal to separate the submarine design and construction work - gives Taiwan the flexibility it needs to move forward in the acquisition process. The next step is for the Legislative Yuan to approve the funding request and it seems very optimistically for this case.

Once more, thank you for your tireless efforts to improve the defense of Taiwan. I look forward to continuing our working relationship and I hope to see you again soon.

Best Regards,

Lee Jye
Minister of National Defense