

## STARFIGHTER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

*Some basic facts in correction to the „Yellow Book“ published by the Netherlands Government.*

### SUMMARY

On May 27, 1975, the Netherlands Government made public “the reasons for the choice of a Successor to the F. 104G for the Royal Netherlands Air Force”. (The “Yellow Book”).

This book goes into a large amount of details to justify the selection of the F. 16, on the basis of:

- The technical and operational value,
- The procurement cost and compatibility with the Dutch budget,
- The running cost,
- The industrial aspects.

This note is intended to summarize some points of overwhelming importance in judging the value of the arguments detailed in the “Yellow Book”.

Additional detailed justification and comments are separately prepared in comment to

- the Report of the Steering Committee,
- the Memorandum of Understanding.

It is our contention that:

- a) the Fl. E is better adapted to the European/NATO environment and multirole requirement.
- b) The Fl. E fits into the Budget of the Netherlands Defense,
- c) The Fl. E has lower running costs,
- d) The Fl. E industrial proposal is far superior to the American proposal and of course, furthermore leads to the building-up of the European Aerospace Industry integration.
- e) The selection of the Fl. E would be the the occasion to initiate a close cooperation in European Armament procurement.

*It is our contention that the arguments detailed in the “Yellow Book” are erroneous, misleading or uncomplete. It is our contention that the selection process was mis-handled and unfair.*

*We want to protest against the fact that the Steering Committee, prior to any decision, went into a negotiation with one of the contenders namely the US, to fully detail a Memorandum of Understanding and a preliminary contract. At the very same time, the Steering Committee appears to have dismissed or omitted a number of features of the Fl. E proposal by mis-interpretation of the Fl. E proposal. A parallel negotiation with the Fl. E Team would have clarified those and given a true sound basis for decision.*

#### *Section 1. — Technical Aspects.*

The statements made in the “Yellow Book” largely derive from the conclusions of the Report of the Steering Committee. This report is partially erroneous, biased and uncomplete:

##### a) *Erroneous.*

Since the method itself was wrong. The only way to conduct such an evaluation is to start from an agreed operational requirement and to confront the proposals with requirement in a quantified way. No such approach was made and the Committee remained on the un-scientific line of feeling that the most sophisticated and modernistic equipment is the best one.

Erroneous also in some of the recorded data, which could have been corrected if the Report had been communicated to the contenders for check (this was finally made in