THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

REP. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
2004 DEC 30 PM 5:06
WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 15, 2004

The Honorable Christopher Shays
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0704

Dear Mr. Shays:

Thank you for your letter of November 8 regarding the Marine One (VXX) source selection decision process.

Your letter highlighted capabilities of the S-92 and expressed specific concerns regarding security regulations and potential vulnerabilities to this vital program. While it would be inappropriate to discuss specific details during the source selection process, I can assure you that those capabilities, including the S-92's performance and its communications system, are being examined and carefully evaluated as a critical part of the competitive process. Additionally, the Department has taken all necessary steps to comply with the appropriate security regulations and guidelines throughout the acquisition process. The Program Office will continue to ensure full compliance with all Department of Defense security regulations.

A similar letter has been sent to Senators Dodd and Lieberman and Representatives DeLauro, Johnson, Larson, and Simmons. As always, if I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Gordon England