

January 27, 1984

Mr. Robert H. Marcouiller, Jr.
P.O. Box 56233
North Pole, Alaska 99705

Dear Mr. Marcouiller:

Examination has been completed on the Model 700 ADL 270 Win. caliber rifle, serial number B6386381, that you returned to us a short time ago because the rifle fired when you moved the safety from the "safe" to "fire" position.

The returned firearm, which was produced in April of 1982, has been thoroughly examined by our firearms experts who report that it contained our high-pressure proof test, gallery test, and final inspection stampings, indicating that it had successfully passed all our necessary tests prior to shipment.

The general condition of the gun appeared to be used, and it was noted that a recoil pad, sling swivel studs, and scope mounts had been added after the rifle left our factory. In going over the individual parts, it was noted that the stock contained numerous scratches and marks.

Initial testing of the rifle indicated that if the bolt was closed rapidly, with the safety in the "safe" position, subsequent movement of the safety would cause the firing pin to fall. Further investigation, which included disassembly of the trigger mechanism, disclosed that the trigger connector was broken. Additionally, removal of the firing pin showed burn marks and powder residue on the firing pin tip and shoulder and brass particles in the bolt threads.

Based upon the powder burns and residue present on the firing pin, the trigger connector breakage resulted from pierced primers. When a primer pierces, an amount of propellant gas blows rearward through the firing pin hole in the bolt, causing the firing pin to be driven rearward. Upon moving rearward, the cocking piece of the firing pin hits the trigger sear-safety cam which in turn strikes the connector and breaks it.