^Necessity

(1) We will demonstrate improved fire control mechanisms for bolt action rifles. This program is on target as Clark will indicate.

^Commitments

MINUTE #16 - September 22, 1982

FROM PAGE NO. 24

SUBJECT: NEW BOLT ACTION RIFLE
1983-1987 Firearms Research Strategy

New Bolt Action Rifle

In July, a four-page list of design specifications for a bolt action rifle that is being considered as a replacement for the 700 was reviewed. Three contingency designs are being considered. Today, I will review what we feel are the key

Chart XLIX and

design elements (Chart L) of this rifle: the receiver will be redesigned to provide the features that seem to be preferred by gunsmiths, gun writers, and customers; flat bottom and integral recoil lug. The external appearance will be similar to the sample Model seven that was passed around.

It is desireable that the safety block the trigger as well as the firing pin, for the added margin of safety against accidental discharge. We feel that a bolt lock is a good selling feature and continue to feel that it should be independent of the safety switch for maximum protection.

A fully adjustable fire control is also a good selling feature and we will try to provide one. We would like to go the extra step of providing this feature without removing the action from the stock.

The commination of a high gloss, lightweight contour with a hammer marked barrel may prove incompatible with the process, but this will have to be investigated. It does offer unique styling opportunities.

The rotary magazine feed system offers three advantages:

1. Smooth operation;

2. Better feeding characteristics since you feed from a single location;

3. A more rigid reciever since the shell opening cut is not as large. This feature can contribute to improved accuracy.

In spite of the fact that our present extractor is stronger than most competitors, it is perceived by shooters as being a cheap, weak, unreliable stamping. We will try to correct that problem without compromising the superior strength of the 700.

Reduced lock time is a key factor in the recognized accuracy of the 788. We will try to duplicate that feature in this new rifle and at the same time provide our Marketing Department with laboratory measured effects of improved lock time at the target, to be used in sales promotions and advertising.

Finally, the stock will be walnut, designed in conjunction with leading stock makers, with features found only in custom-made stocks. The butt will be cast off and toed out to fit the natural contour of the human shoulder and enable the shooter to sight quickly with a more natural head position. Current methods of stock manufacturing should enable us to make three versions if necessary: cast off or on, toed in or out or straight. We believe this touch of custom work is a good

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FIREARMS

NEW PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

MURRAY

Bolt Action Rifles

Five Model 700 fire controls with blocked sears and blocked triggers are in the Test Lab for evaluation. We are assembling sample fire controls employing a new trigger design which does not require a connector to eliminate a part, insure a more positive lift, and maintain proper clearance.

The second Model 7 bolt action gun is complete with long action.