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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 June 1979

SALT II: PUBLIC RESPONSE

The Prime Minister has seen the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's minute (PM/79/56) of 18 June about the Government's public reaction to the signature of the SALT II Agreement.

The Prime Minister has commented that the reference, in paragraph 3 of the draft text enclosed with Lord Carrington's minute, to "equal limits on both sides" is not entirely clear. We agreed on the telephone that the Prime Minister's point would be met if the reference were to be to "numerically equal limits": but the point would equally be covered if Lord Carrington were disposed to accept the reformulation which the Defence Secretary has proposed independently.

S/S MOD to S/S FCO of 18/6/79

Subject to this, the Prime Minister is content with the draft 'for today'; in other words, the Prime Minister will, I think, wish to adjust the Government's line when the full text of the SALT II Agreement has been received and studied.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the other members of OD, and to Martin Vile in the Cabinet Office.

B. G. CARTLEDGE

Paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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