

Top copy on USA, June 1979

Defence

No action.

P. G.

GM

9/1

PRIME MINISTER

Senator Helms and Mr. Carbaugh

The attached letter to you from Mr. Carbaugh arrived today. It repeats Senator Helms's sceptical view of the value of the assurances which we have received from the Americans about the non-circumvention clauses in SALT 2; suggests that you should engage in confidential exchanges with the Taiwanese on intelligence matters; and asks you to give an interview to Roland Evans of the Evans/Novak partnership.

I have already sent Senator Helms the text of your reply in the House about the assurances which the Americans have given us about SALT 2. I remain of the view that the firm assurances given orally by Mr. Vance to both you and Lord Carrington, in the presence of witnesses, during his last visit to London are as good as we can hope to get and satisfactory. If, as Lord Carrington has recommended, you visit Washington in September you could extract similar oral assurances from President Carter himself.

*That is not the point. Oral assurances do not outlast the juv. written " would be expected to bind a gov. There is no*

I believe it would be a grave mistake to engage in any covert contacts with Taiwan. The Taiwanese would certainly ensure for their own purposes, that the Chinese became aware of their success in cultivating the British Government in this way and this would seriously damage our relations with Peking. I do not know Senator Helms's views on the West's relations with China but I imagine that such an outcome might not be entirely unwelcome to him.

Since you have not given any interviews to British journalists since taking office, I doubt whether it would be right for you to see Mr. Roland Evans.

*I have seen Roland Evans privately before + nothing has ever leaked out. But the end justifies the means.*

In short, if you agree, I do not think that it is necessary to take any action on Mr. Carbaugh's letter.

*GM*

*interview.*

*ref.*

5 July 1979