



4 file JKS
Defence

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 May 1979

COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN

The Prime Minister has seen the note prepared by officials for incoming Ministers on the comprehensive test ban negotiations. The Prime Minister has made the general comment on the paper that she is unhappy and concerned over this issue. The Prime Minister has made the following specific comments on the paper:-

Para. 4. The Prime Minister has commented that it is not surprising that the Russians have claimed to want a CTB, given that they can test small explosions without detection.

Para. 6. The Prime Minister has expressed the view that the 100 lb limit on small nuclear experiments is too ~~small~~ ^{low}. On the same paragraph, the Prime Minister has commented that the UK must not give way on the question of nuclear experiments and should work to exclude from the Treaty much bigger tests than so far envisaged, since the Russians have the capability of decoupling their test explosions by using underground caverns.

Para. 8. The Prime Minister has noted that the Americans would like the review conference to consider the introduction of a threshold of 3 kt below which testing could be resumed: the Prime Minister has commented that the threshold should be 10 kt.

Para. 11. On the question of National Seismic Stations, the Prime Minister has commented that the Soviet Union can arrange for testing to take place during a period of seismic disturbance. The Prime Minister has also made the general comment that the Russians will make comprehensive preparations for a resumption of testing so that their testing programme can continue as soon as the CTB Treaty comes to an end, with the consequence that the West will be left behind.

I am sending copies of this letter to George Walden (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Roger Facer (Ministry of Defence).

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Cabinet Office.

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AC/17m