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subject copy filed on:-

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 44A/82

Defence: UK Nuclear Deterrent: Pt 5.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 11, 1982

Dear Margaret:

Thank you for your letter of March 11.

I am pleased to confirm that the United States Government is prepared to supply to the United Kingdom TRIDENT II missiles, equipment and supporting services as proposed in your letter, subject to and in accordance with applicable United States law and procedures.

The United States readiness to provide these systems is a demonstration of the great importance which the United States Government attaches to the maintenance by the United Kingdom of an independent nuclear deterrent capability. I can assure you of the United States' willingness to cooperate closely with the United Kingdom Government in maintaining and modernizing that capability.

I attach great importance to your assurance that the United Kingdom TRIDENT II force will be assigned to NATO and that the economies realized through cooperation between our two governments will be used to reinforce the United Kingdom's efforts to upgrade its conventional forces. Such nuclear and conventional force improvements are of the highest priority for NATO's security.

I agree that, as the next step, our two governments should initiate the technical and financial negotiations which you propose.

Sincerely,

Ron

The Right Honorable
Margaret R. Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister
London