



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 June 1979

*Dear Lord Mountbatten,*

Thank you very much for your letter of 13 June.

I greatly enjoyed our talk last week and I am grateful to you for taking the trouble to send me the extract from your speech in Strasbourg. These are very difficult and important issues, and solutions are not easy to find. But our security must of course remain our highest priority, and I am sure that deterrence must continue to lie at the heart of our defence. This is true at all levels - the strategic nuclear, the theatre nuclear and the conventional. At the same time we should be ready to try to achieve arms control measures which are fair to both sides and which can be satisfactorily verified. We shall seek to move forward along both these paths, with the aim of reducing international tension while maintaining fully our security.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Harcourt White*

Admiral of the Fleet  
The Rt. Hon. The Earl Mountbatten of Burma, K.G., G.C.B.,  
O.M., G.C.I.S., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., D.S.O.

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