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SUBJECT

TS1/79T



FILE

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. TS1/79T

10 DOWNING STREET

cc FCO
MOD
CO

THE PRIME MINISTER

28 July 1979

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your message of 11 July about theatre nuclear forces. I share your view of the importance for the Alliance of reaching a firm decision this year to modernise long range theatre nuclear systems in Europe. You can count on our support in trying to achieve the necessary Alliance consensus, both on modernisation and on the arms control aspects.

We were grateful to you for sending David Aaron to explain your specific proposals. We shall be considering the options carefully. Francis Pym also had some useful discussions with Harold Brown, as a result of which a team of experts will be visiting Washington within the next few days to explore the technical and financial issues in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Redman

The President of the United States of America.

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VLB



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10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

This draft reply
has been agreed between
the FCW and MOI.
Background is attached
below.

BGM
27/7

~ Dear Mr. President ~

SECRET



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone 01-~~830 0002~~ 218 2111/3

SECRET

MO 13/1/34

26th July 1979

Dear Bryan.

On 12th July 1979 you wrote to Paul Lever enclosing a copy of a message from President Carter to the Prime Minister about theatre nuclear force modernisation. You asked for consideration to be given, following the visit of the President's emissary, Mr Aaron, to a reply which the Prime Minister might send. We have agreed to take the lead.

By now you should have seen the records of Mr Aaron's meetings with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and Lord Strathcona, and with officials. I also sent you a note of the Defence Secretary's discussions with the US Secretary of Defence. There are many detailed technical and factual points still to be resolved before the Defence Secretary will be able to consult his colleagues again about the options discussed by MISC 7 on 10th July. A team of experts will be visiting Washington within the next few days to probe these points.

In the meantime, we believe that it would be advantageous if the Prime Minister were to send a short reply now expressing our recognition of the importance of the issue and our desire to act as a robust ally of the USA. A draft message which we have agreed with FCO officials is attached.

/ I am ...

B G Cartledge Esq.,
10 Downing Street

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I am sending a copy of this letter to Paul Lever
(Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and to Martin Vile
(Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

Roger Facer

(R L L FACER)

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SECRET

Thank you for your message of 11th July about theatre nuclear forces. I share your view of the importance for the Alliance of reaching a firm decision this year to modernise long range theatre nuclear systems in Europe. You can count on our support in trying to achieve the necessary Alliance consensus, both on modernisation and on the arms control aspects.

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