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DE NTE #4778 1591506
O 081513Z JUN 79
FM PRESIDENT CARTER

TO PRIME MINISTER THATCHER

~~TOP SECRET~~ SENSITIVE VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS WH91187

DEAR PRIME MINISTER THATCHER:

YOUR MAY 30 LETTER PROPOSED TO SEND UK OFFICIALS TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS STRATEGIC FORCE MODERNIZATION ALTERNATIVES WHICH THE UK IS CONSIDERING. THE VIABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BRITISH DETERRENT HAS LONG BEEN A MATTER OF INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES AND COOPERATION BETWEEN US. I HAVE ASKED DR. BRZEZINSKI TO CONTACT JOHN HUNT TO ARRANGE AN EARLY MEETING ON THE LINES YOU PROPOSE. OF COURSE, WE WILL BOTH WISH TO CONSIDER THE RESULTS OF THESE TALKS AND FURTHER EXCHANGES BEFORE REACHING ANY DECISIONS. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT ALL THE ALTERNATIVES YOU MENTION REMAIN OPEN UNDER THE SALT II TREATY.

SINCERELY,

JIMMY CARTER

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E.O.12958, Sec.3.6

PER 827147 NLC HRE NLC-96-145

BY [Signature] NARS. DATE 11/10/97

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#10A

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

June 8, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Attached is Prime Minister Thatcher's letter to the President and the response he sent following the lines we discussed Tuesday, and my follow-up message to John Hunt. (T/S)

As we agreed, we will manage this enterprise under the Steering Group and procedures established by Presidential Directive on French Cooperation. The US team for the late July talks (Aaron-NSC, Bartholomew-State, Perry and Slocombe-DOD) will constitute a Working Group. (T/S)

The following papers should be prepared as indicated and transmitted to Working Group members by July 7, 1979:

-- DOD: succinct review of US-UK nuclear cooperation. This should include, inter alia: a description of our current assistance to the British and its role in their programs; the present and projected status of the UK deterrent; and an assessment of our legal and other commitments concerning US-UK nuclear cooperation, as they might bear on the systems the British have mentioned (e.g., 1962 Polaris Sales Agreement, 1958 Law and Agreement).

-- DOD: an analysis of the modernization alternatives cited in the Thatcher letter, including, inter alia: what we know about British thinking on the alternatives; the UK questions on technical implications, cost, and likely availability, and other relevant aspects; and the relative effects on British strategic capabilities.

-- State: an analysis of the political dimensions of the modernization alternatives, including inter alia: US-UK relations; relationship to our TNF modernization/arms

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Declassify 6/7/2009

Classified and Extended by Z.Brzezinski

Reason for Extension: NSC 1.13(a)

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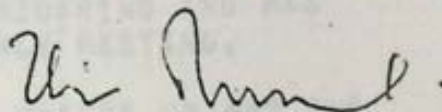
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control track; SALT implications; relationship to US-French nuclear cooperation and possible Anglo-French cooperation. State should also prepare a statement to be used with the UK on the French program in fulfillment of the Mildenhall Agreement. (T/S)

Drawing on these papers, the Working Group should then prepare an issues and alternatives paper and draft guidance for the talks by July 18 for Steering Group consideration and recommendations to the President. (T/S)

This matter is to be treated with exceptional confidentiality, and access should be tightly limited. (T/S)



Zbigniew Brzezinski

Enclosures:

- a. Prime Minister Thatcher's message to the President.
- b. President's response to Prime Minister Thatcher.
- c. Brzezinski message to John Hunt.

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DE RTE #4781 1591531
O 081536Z JUN 79
FM ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

TO JOHN HUNT

~~TOP SECRET~~ SENSITIVE VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS WH91188

TO: JOHN HUNT

FROM: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

THE PRESIDENT IS INFORMING PRIME MINISTER THATCHER OF HIS AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE A UK TEAM TO DISCUSS STRATEGIC FORCE MODERNIZATION ALTERNATIVES THE UK IS CONSIDERING AND HAS ASKED ME TO CONTACT YOU TO ARRANGE AN EARLY MEETING.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE TWO SUMMITS BEFORE US AND THE PREPARATIONS REQUIRED, WE CAN BE READY FOR A PRODUCTIVE MEETING BY THE LATTER PART OF JULY AND SUGGEST JUL 30-31 AS WORKING DATES. THE PEOPLE ON OUR SIDE WILL BE DAVID AARON (NSC), REGINALD BARTHOLOMEW (STATE), AND WILLIAM PERRY AND WALTER SLOCUMBE (DDO).

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