



Original in G/R  
cc MOD  
19.

C.F. to note

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 December 1979

Dear Mr. Newens.

Thank you for your letter of 28 November about cruise missiles.

NATO's Defence and Foreign Ministers will be meeting in Brussels on 12 December to decide on a programme for the modernisation of NATO's long-range theatre nuclear weapons and a parallel arms control approach to the Soviet Union. The proposed programme includes the basing in the United Kingdom of 160 US owned and manned Ground Launched Cruise Missiles, which would be assigned to NATO. As in the case of the F111 aircraft which are already based in this country, I am satisfied that current arrangements are adequate to ensure that the British Government would have a proper role in any decisions concerning their use in war.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

S. Newens, Esq., M.P.

JS