

*(Copy 1 filed on Defence May 79-UK Det.)*

Ref. A0940

PRIME MINISTERModernisation of NATO's Long Range Theatre Nuclear Forces  
and the replacement of Polaris

As agreed at the MISC 7 meeting on 6th December, the Defence Secretary will make a statement at Cabinet on 13th December under Foreign Affairs on the outcome of the NATO Ministerial meeting on 12th December on the proposals to modernise NATO's theatre nuclear weapons, and the parallel arms control proposals.

2. Following his statement you may care to inform Cabinet that, at your meeting with President Carter on 17th December in Washington, you will be exploring the possibilities of a suitable replacement for the U. K. Polaris force in the early 1990s. The Americans are very anxious that, at this stage, you should not be specific about which particular possibility you may have in mind.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

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12th December 1979