

SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET

(3) Feb. 05 / Defence
① 1 hour.
② 4 USA.

From the Principal Private Secretary

5 February 1981

Dear Roman,

Trident: Public Attitudes

The Prime Minister has read with interest your Secretary of State's minute of 2 February 1981 about the public relations aspects of the Trident decision.

She would like to discuss the points raised by Mr. Nott with him and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary when they meet to hear his preliminary assessment of our longer term commitments and of the changes which it may be necessary to make to bring the defence programme back into line with the resources likely to be available for it in the longer term. We will be in touch with you to arrange a time for this meeting.

In the meanwhile, the Defence Secretary may like to know that the Prime Minister has commented that it really should be possible for two Defence Ministers to master the strategic options and the philosophical arguments affecting Trident.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Halliday (Home Office), George Walden (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) John Wiggins (HM Treasury) and Robin Birch (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office).

Yours sincerely,

Alvi Whitmore.

B.M. Norbury Esq
Ministry of Defence

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