

SECRET

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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24 AUG 1981

Her Excellency
Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of Great Britain
10 Downing Street
London
England

Dear Prime Minister:

As a result of my meeting with John Nott, I understand that an early decision by the U.S. on the D-5 missile for our Trident submarines would greatly assist the budgetary planning of Her Majesty's Government.

I am pleased to inform you that President Reagan has authorized me to advise you now, in advance of the public announcement, that we will use the D-5 missile in our Trident boats and will make that missile available to you should you desire to buy it. I would expect our public announcement to be made in a few weeks. I hope that this will prove helpful to you as you plan for the configuration of the U.K. Trident program.

I am especially pleased that the cooperation of our governments in strengthening our mutual security is again reflected in this decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jasper W. Minkler", is written below the word "Sincerely,".

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