

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 134/81

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OO WTEP4
DE WTE 65575 075001R
O 020136Z OCT #1
FM THE PRESIDENT, THE WHITE HOUSE
TO THE PRIME MINISTER, CABINET OFFICE
ZEM
S E C R E T VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS WHR5575

OCTOBER 1, 1981

DEAR MAGGIE

AS YOU KNOW, MY ADMINISTRATION HAS UNDERTAKEN A RIGOROUS AND EXHAUSTIVE REVIEW OF U.S. STRATEGIC FORCES WITH A GOAL OF DEVELOPING THE MOST EFFECTIVE PLAN TO MODERNIZE THESE FORCES AND COUNTER THE GROWING SOVIET THREAT. THIS PLAN IS NOW COMPLETE, AND I WILL MAKE IT PUBLIC ON FRIDAY. BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND BECAUSE OF THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF THE BRITISH AND U.S. DEFENSE PROGRAMS, I WANT YOU TO KNOW MY DECISIONS BEFORE THEY ARE MADE PUBLIC.

THE PLAN CALLS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE MODERNIZATION OF ALL MAJOR ELEMENTS OF OUR STRATEGIC FORCES AND SUPPORTING COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS. THIS BROAD APPROACH PERMITS A COHERENT PROGRAM TO SHARE THE CAPABILITIES NECESSARY TO SUPPORT OUR OBJECTIVES AND OUR STRATEGY. THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THIS PLAN ARE:

DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF AT LEAST 100 MX MISSILES WITH INITIAL DEPLOYMENT OF SOME MX MISSILES IN EXISTING TITAN OR MINUTEMAN SILOS THAT WILL BE RECONSTRUCTED FOR GREATER HARDNESS. WE WILL PURSUE R&D ON PROMISING LONG-TERM BASING OPTIONS LEADING TO A DEPLOYMENT DECISION BY 1984. ALL WORK WILL BE STOPPED ON THE MULTIPLE PROTECTIVE SHELTER BASING FOR MX CURRENTLY UNDERWAY.

ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE D-5 TRIDENT II MISSILE, AND CONTINUED CONSTRUCTION OF TRIDENT SUBMARINES AT A RATE OF AT LEAST ONE PER YEAR. DEPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR CRUISE MISSILES ON EXISTING SUBMARINES TO IMPROVE IN THE NEAR TERM OUR STRATEGIC RESERVE FORCE -- THAT PART OF OUR STRATEGIC DETERRENT THAT COULD BE WITHHELD TO DETER FOLLOW-UP SOVIET ATTACK ON THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES.

DEPLOYMENT OF AN IMPROVED VERSION OF THE B-1 BOMBER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, COUPLED WITH CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY BOMBER WITH STEALTH CHARACTERISTICS FOR DEPLOYMENT IN THE 1990S.

IMPROVEMENTS IN STRATEGIC DEFENSES, INCLUDING MODERNIZATION OF OUR AIR DEFENSES, VIGOROUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSES, AND IMPROVEMENT OF CIVIL

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DEFENSES.

EXTENSIVE IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR COMMAND, CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS.

THIS COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM WILL CORRECT DEFICIENCIES THAT HAVE RESULTED FROM THE RAPID EXPANSION OF SOVIET MILITARY POWER AND, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, IT WILL DEMONSTRATE OUR RESOLVE TO RESTORE THE STRATEGIC BALANCE AND TO MAINTAIN FLEXIBLE, RESPONSIVE, AND SURVIVABLE RETALIATORY FORCES. IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT WITHOUT SUCH A PROGRAM THERE WOULD BE NO INCENTIVE FOR THE SOVIETS SERIOUSLY TO NEGOTIATE MEANINGFUL AND SUBSTANTIAL ARMS REDUCTIONS, A COURSE TO WHICH MY GOVERNMENT REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED.

I HAVE ARRANGED, THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS, FOR YOUR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS TO BE INFORMED OF THESE DECISIONS IN GREATER DETAIL.

SINCERELY,
RONALD REAGAN

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RECEIVED AT 0357 GMT/02. Pen.

N.B. BY LAMESA TALKS TALK SYMBOL @ 4162
IN ADDITIONAL FOR 'AND'

Delivered to Charles via Helen 05:00 to 05:10