

Deployment

Prime Minister

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PM/82/88

PRIME MINISTER

Since we need to speak with one voice at the Bonn summit, and there is no time to discuss these difficult issues before then, I suggest that I tell those participating that you would not wish the German side to get any impression that our policy on these issues may change. Agree?

*Yes A.S.C. 25/10
ms*

I have seen John Nott's minute of 20 October on nuclear issues. It raises a number of very sensitive questions which I believe we must discuss with our colleagues before any of the ideas are pursued further.

So far we have been the most staunch and dependable of the allies in our support for the modernisation programme. Any hint at this stage that we were having second thoughts about the 1979 decision on GLCM deployments could put at risk the whole enterprise. The impact of this, in particular on the Americans, would be extremely serious. I am sure it would be unwise to raise any suggestion of these ideas in the forthcoming Anglo-German summit. I am in favour of a more positive line on the arms control side. John Nott's ideas on this are welcome, but they will require the most careful preparation if they are to stand any chance of success.

I am sending copies of this minute to our colleagues on MISC 7 and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

70

(FRANCIS PYM)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
25 October 1982

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