

SUBJECT

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Prime Minister

Judy Clerk

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PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 30A 83

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FM THE WHITE HOUSE
TO CABINET OFFICE LONDON
ZEM

S E C R E T SENSITIVE VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS WHO1785

MARCH 14, 1983

US Declassified

DEAR MARGARET:

IN MY MESSAGE OF FEBRUARY 16, I INVITED YOUR VIEWS ON HOW TO TREAT THE INF ISSUE SO AS TO ASSURE A UNITED ALLIED POSITION AND THUS, COUNTER SOVIET EFFORTS TO DELAY OR PREVENT THE DEPLOYMENT OR ANY REAL PROGRESS IN GENEVA. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT OUR CONSULTATIONS, PARTICULARLY DURING THE VICE PRESIDENTS TRIP AND IN WRITTEN EXCHANGES SINCE, HAVE SERVED THAT PURPOSE VERY WELL.

AS I STATED IN MY MESSAGE, MY FOREMOST CONCERN IS TO PROCEED IN A WAY WHICH COMPLEMENTS YOUR OWN EFFORTS AND WHICH SUBSTAINS SUPPORT FOR BOTH TRACKS OF THE DECEMBER 79 DECISION. I REMAIN COMMITTED TO THESE GOALS. TOWARD THAT END I HAVE DIRECTED THAT A PROMPT REVIEW OF OUR POSITION BE UNDERTAKEN DISCREETLY SO AS NOT TO INVITE A SPATE OF SOVIET PRESSURE TO WHICH WE WOULD ULTIMATELY APPEAR TO BE YIELDING. I EXPECT THAT THIS REVIEW WILL PRODUCE THE BASIS FOR NEW INSTRUCTIONS TO PAUL NITZE PROVIDING FOR HIS INTRODUCING AN INTERIM PROPOSAL EVEN AS WE MAINTAIN ZERO-ZERO AS OUR GOAL. I WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AND WILL OF COURSE, SEEK YOUR COMMENTS BEFORE REACHING ANY DECISIONS.

AS WE PROCEED, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE COULD AVOID PUBLIC CALLS FROM EUROPEAN CAPITALS FOR CHANGE OR GREATER FLEXIBILITY. HERE AGAIN, SINCE WE ARE MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION, IT IS UNNECESSARY TO PUT US IN THE APPARENT POSITION OF BEING THE RELUCTANT PARTNER, WHICH OF COURSE, WE ARE NOT. INDEED, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU WERE TO FIND IT POSSIBLE TO EXPRESS YOUR CONFIDENCE IN THE EXTREMELY CLOSE COORDINATION WHICH HAS BEEN AND REMAINS UNDERWAY WHICH MAKES CLEAR THE ALLIANCES COMMITMENT TO GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATIONS AND THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN AGREEMENT CALLING FOR DEEP REDUCTIONS LEADING ULTIMATELY TO ZERO-ZERO.

AS STATED ABOVE, YOU MAY BE CONFIDENT THAT I WILL REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH YOU ON THIS MATTER AND WILL, WITHIN THE NEXT TEN DAYS, BE SEEKING YOUR VIEWS AS TO HOW BEST TO GO FORWARD TOGETHER.

SINCERELY,

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