



10 DOWNING STREET

23 March, 1983

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Mr Owen

I understand you have asked whether I would have any objection to your publishing the letter you sent me on 14 February and my reply of 9 March.

As you know, we have consulted the US State Department. I have to say that I agree with them that public debate about the details of the control arrangements for nuclear missiles can only be of help to the Soviet Union.

I leave it to you to decide in the light of this whether to publish our exchange of letters. *Personally, I would not do so.*

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. Dr. David Owen, M.P.

SW