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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN

Thank you for your message about the danger that further countries may develop nuclear weapons. I agree with you that this is an important issue in which effective cooperation between suppliers is essential. As you know, the United Kingdom has played a leading role in developing proposals for improved export control for equipment and materials relating to centrifuge enrichment. We have also supported efforts to find proper safeguards.

But the lack of progress in international discussion of non-proliferation issues in New York and Vienna, coupled with continuing Western public interest in these issues, means that we must look well ahead in our preparations for the next Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1985. We should now try to develop a clear and consistent Western strategy, which lays emphasis on the benefits which NPT membership can give to both supplier and recipient countries. Although the Review Conference is still some time away, the issues involved are complicated and sensitive, and it will take time to work out a strategy among ourselves convincing enough to ensure that the non-proliferation regime is not fatally eroded.

So I believe that these matters require further discussion with our allies and partners at an early date. Probably the best way to make a start would be in a forum restricted to our closest partners. We shall try to put forward some helpful ideas there. Meanwhile, I assure you that we are keen to work constructively for improvements to the non-proliferation regime, including general acceptance of the requirement for full-scope safeguards.

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