

OPS CC MASTER

SUBJECT: DEFENCE: INF Pt 4

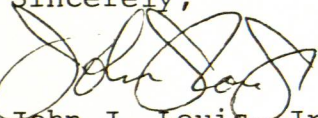
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
LONDON

September 22, 1983

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T137/83**

Dear Prime Minister:

I have been asked to forward to you the enclosed message from President Reagan which was received at the Embassy this morning.

Sincerely,

John J. Louis, Jr.
Ambassador

Enclosure:

SECRET

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Margaret:

I appreciate your prompt and thoughtful response to my letter outlining ideas for certain specific negotiating initiatives to elaborate the INF interim agreement proposal. I value both your advice and your continued steadfast personal support as we implement both tracks of the Alliance's 1979 dual-track decision to restore the balance in intermediate-range nuclear forces.

I also attach importance to the exchange of views in NATO's Special Consultative Group, particularly the very helpful suggestions made in the September 19 meeting, which considered the new approach in detail.

As a result of these consultations, and the very positive allied responses to the new negotiating moves, I have instructed Ambassador Nitze to inform Ambassador Kvitsinskiy of our initiatives on September 22 in Geneva. We are making a brief announcement in Washington that the U.S., in consultation with the allies, has decided to undertake new steps intended to move the negotiations forward. I will refer to these steps in somewhat more detail in my address to the United Nations General Assembly September 26.

In public statements on the new INF initiatives, I think we should stress both the flexibility and the seriousness of our negotiating approach, and make it unmistakably clear that it is incumbent on the Soviets to respond with similar flexibility and seriousness if there is to be real progress in the INF talks. We should also note the important role of the alliance consultative process in developing our position. This role will be just as essential in the coming months, as the intensive SCG schedule indicates. I look forward to working closely with you as part of this process.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ron