

OPS
PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 198/83

Subject on
Defence, INF,
Pt 4

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LUK 7⁴³/25

FDW F 43/25

DD 260300Z DELHI

OO ROME

OO MOSCOW

GRS 299

D E D I P

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 260300Z - DELHI

FM FCO 252005Z NOV 83

TO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI

TELEGRAM NUMBER 914 OF 25 NOVEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR/MINISTER) WASHINGTON

BONN ROME MOSCOW PARIS

1. TEXT OF ANDROPOV'S LETTER OF 24 NOVEMBER TO THE PRIME MINISTER IS AS FOLLOWS:

'MRS PRIME MINISTER,

I AM ADDRESSING YOU IN CONNECTION WITH THE DECISION TAKEN IN GREAT BRITAIN TO START THE DEPLOYMENT OF AMERICAN MEDIUM-RANGE NUCLEAR MISSILES ON THE TERRITORY OF YOUR COUNTRY.

OUR POLITICAL ASSESSMENT OF THIS STEP AS WELL AS THE ENUMERATION OF COUNTER-MEASURES WHICH THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN FORCED TO TAKE ARE CONTAINED IN THE ENCLOSED TEXT OF THE STATEMENT.

WE HAVE ONLY TO REGRET THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A CHOICE IN FAVOUR OF THE FURTHER SHARPENING OF THE SITUATION AND IT HAS BEEN DONE DELIBERATELY WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONSEQUENCES WHICH THE DECISION TAKEN IN LONDON WILL INEVITABLY LEAD TO.

THE CONCLUSION FOLLOWS FROM THIS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT JUST LIKE THE US GOVERNMENT PREFERRED THE ROAD QUITE OPPOSITE TO THE ACCORD ON THE REDUCTION OF THE LEVEL OF NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION IN EUROPE, THE ROAD LEADING TO THE INCREASE OF THIS LEVEL AND THUS LEADING TO THE GROWTH OF THE MILITARY DANGER.

WE ALSO CANNOT HELP COMING TO THE CONCLUSION THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT DOES NOT VALUE THE MAINTAINING OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION BASED ON CONFIDENCE. IT IS CLEAR THAT WE HAVE TO TAKE IT INTO ACCOUNT IN OUR POLICY.

HOWEVER WE WOULD NOT LIKE TO REGARD THE SITUATION ARISEN AS IRREVERSIBLE. IF ANOTHER, REALISTIC APPROACH TOWARDS THE SECURITY MATTERS PREVAIL IN THE WEST, AND IF THE NATO COUNTRIES SHOW THEIR READINESS TO RETURN TO THE SITUATION WHICH EXISTED BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF AMERICAN MISSILES IN EUROPE, YOU CAN BE SURE THAT IT WOULD FIND THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE FROM OUR SIDE.

YOURS RESPECTFULLY,
Y ANDROPOV'

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