



3

209

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 December, 1983

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 28 November about the deployment of Cruise Missiles.

As you know, I have said in the House of Commons on a number of occasions that the arrangements for the control of Cruise Missiles are the same which have applied to other weapons based in this country for very many years under both Labour and Conservative governments. These arrangements have proved satisfactory to governments of both parties and I believe them to be so today. Indeed, President Reagan has made it clear that the arrangements are tantamount to a veto. There is, therefore, no possibility that Cruise Missiles could be fired from British territory without the agreement of the British Prime Minister.

I should stress, however, that we certainly do not intend that Cruise Missiles should ever be fired. They are a contribution to NATO's policy of deterrence which has kept the peace in Europe for thirty-eight years. This Government's firm belief is that this policy will continue to do so in the future.

Yours
Raymond

Peter Lilley, Esq., M.P.

209