

SUBJECT

TOP SECRET

cc Master
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FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Ron,

It was very helpful when you told us last August of your intention to use the D5 missile in your Trident submarine and to make that missile available to the United Kingdom should we wish to buy it.

Over the past months we have been giving the choice between the C4 and D5 missiles careful thought. We should now like to explore with your people the possibility of buying the D5, including the terms on which the missile system would be made available. I should like to send to Washington in the near future a small team of senior officials to discuss this possibility on a very confidential basis. On the last occasion the team which we sent consisted of officials from the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office here. We would propose to follow the same pattern on this occasion, assuming this to be compatible with whatever arrangements you thought it best to make on your side.

If you are content that we should proceed in this way, I should welcome your views on how the talks could best be conducted; and I should be glad to know whom my people should contact in the first instance. I hope it may be possible to make arrangements for an early visit.

Warm regards,

Yours ever,

Margaret.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 13B/82

21.1.82

TOP SECRET

CAB/WTE 001/21

IMMEDIATE 211550Z JAN 82
FROM CABINET OFFICE LONDON
TO THE WHITE HOUSE

*Hotline
Copy*

BT
T O P S E C R E T

MISC 33.

FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA.

DEAR RON,

IT WAS VERY HELPFUL WHEN YOU TOLD US LAST AUGUST
OF YOUR INTENTION TO USE THE D5 MISSILE IN YOUR TRIDENT
SUBMARINE AND TO MAKE THAT MISSILE AVAILABLE TO THE
UNITED KINGDOM SHOULD WE WISH TO BUY IT.

OVER THE PAST MONTHS WE HAVE BEEN GIVING THE CHOICE
BETWEEN THE C4 AND D5 MISSILES CAREFUL THOUGHT. WE SHOULD
NOW LIKE TO EXPLORE WITH YOUR PEOPLE THE POSSIBILITY OF BUYING
THE D5, INCLUDING THE TERMS ON WHICH THE MISSILE SYSTEM WOULD
BE MADE AVAILABLE. I SHOULD LIKE TO SEND TO WASHINGTON IN THE
NEAR FUTURE A SMALL TEAM OF SENIOR OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THIS
POSSIBILITY ON A VERY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS. ON THE LAST
OCCASION THE TEAM WHICH WE SENT CONSISTED OF OFFICIALS FROM THE
CABINET OFFICE, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND THE FOREIGN
AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE HERE. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO FOLLOW THE
SAME PATTERN ON THIS OCCASION, ASSUMING THIS TO BE COMPATIBLE
WITH WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS YOU THOUGHT IT BEST TO MAKE ON YOUR
SIDE.

IF YOU ARE CONTENT THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED IN THIS WAY,
I SHOULD WELCOME YOUR VIEWS ON HOW THE TALKS COULD BEST
BE CONDUCTED: AND I SHOULD BE GLAD TO KNOW WHOM MY PEOPLE
SHOULD CONTACT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE. I HOPE IT MAY BE POSSIBLE
TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN EARLY VISIT.

WARM REGARDS,

YOURS EVER,

MARGARET.

BT

NNNN