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Prime Minister

To note.

PRIME MINISTER

I read with interest Francis Pym's minute of 25th October which reported on his meeting with Professor Rostow, the Director of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

2. Professor Rostow also briefed my officials - I was myself en route for the Falklands. What he had to say to them of course corresponded closely with the account he gave in the FCO, but there are two points worth adding. First, the impression he gave my officials was that the Soviet negotiator took the original initiative, though the substance of that initiative and its subsequent handling and reception were as Francis Pym describes. Rostow clearly felt (and we agreed) that it was a remarkable step for a very experienced Soviet negotiator even to agree to take such ideas back to his Capital.

3. Second, Rostow, when asked, was prepared to indicate to us the numbers involved, though he went to some pains to stress the particular sensitivity of the information. The agreement was for equal quotas of 75 systems for each side for each of the "European" and "Far East" areas; that is, 300 systems in all.

4. I am sending copies of this minute for the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

SW

1st November 1982

Ministry of Defence



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