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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

15 October, 1984

Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD): UK Policy  
towards the US Strategic Initiative

The Prime Minister has considered the paper on Ballistic Missile Defence sent forward under the joint minute by your Secretary of State and the Foreign Secretary.

The Prime Minister's general view is that the case against the strategic defence initiative is not so open and shut as suggested in the conclusions in paragraph 59 of the paper. In particular, in the light of what the paper says of Soviet research in this area, she feels that the Americans have little option but to push ahead at least to the point where they can be confident that they are matching the Soviet Union.

The Prime Minister would like to discuss this paper soon in a restricted group. We are hoping to arrange this after OD on 22 October.

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