

CONFIDENTIAL

(F)

PRIME MINISTER

*me*

WESTERN ARMS CONTROL STRATEGY

At your meeting on 7 November it was agreed to prepare further papers on defence and arms control issues for your seminar with President Reagan.

The situation has now changed. You will be seeing President Reagan in December. It is uncertain whether the February Seminar will take place or be postponed until May.

The paper provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary is not really adequate to this new situation. It suggests in paragraph 3 some very general points which you might make to President Reagan in December and assumes that we shall have plenty of time for thinking on the detailed issues between then and February.

If we are to get the best out of the December meeting we shall need to think through the issues and do the homework rapidly, with the aim of distilling the key points for your brief. The US/Soviet Agreement to meet to discuss arms control adds to the urgency.

Agree to issue instructions for further work on the above lines?

*EAD*

*Yes me*

23 November 1984

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