

OPS

cc Master

Subject: ~~Foreign Policy~~
~~East West Relations~~ #4

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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T197A/84.

OO WASHINGTON

GRS 253

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 241200Z NOV 84

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2013 OF 24 NOVEMBER

INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO, MOSCOW

SAVING TO OTHER NATO POSTS

ARMS CONTROL: REPLY TO PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM PRIME MINISTER

1. PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S MESSAGE OF 22 NOVEMBER (MY TELNO 1996 NOT TO ALL).

2. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE DEAR RON, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 22 NOVEMBER, DELIVERED TO ME BY CHARLIE PRICE.

I AM DELIGHTED TO HEAR THAT YOUR EFFORTS TO RESUME A SERIOUS ARMS CONTROL DIALOGUE WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAVE MET WITH A POSITIVE RESPONSE AND THAT GEORGE SHULTZ AND GROMYKO HAVE AGREED TO MEET IN GENEVA ON 7/8 JANUARY. THIS SHOWS THAT PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE WILL IN THE END PAY DIVIDENDS. I AM PARTICULARLY GLAD THAT YOU ENVISAGE DISCUSSING THE WHOLE RANGE OF ARMS CONTROL TOPICS. AS YOU IMPLY, STRATEGIC AND INTERMEDIATE RANGE NUCLEAR SYSTEMS AND OUTER SPACE ARE OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE. BUT AS I MENTIONED TO GEORGE SHULTZ RECENTLY IN DELHI, I BELIEVE THAT CHEMICAL WEAPONS ARE SCARCELY LESS SO. I UNDERSTAND FROM OLIVER WRIGHT THAT THESE WOULD ALSO BE A CANDIDATE FOR SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER YOUR UMBRELLA CONCEPT, ALONG WITH CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE AND CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES.

I AM SURE YOU ARE RIGHT NOT TO UNDER-ESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTIES AHEAD. BUT YOU KNOW YOU HAVE OUR STRONG SUPPORT AS THESE PROSPECTS OPEN UP. I LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER DISCUSSION OF ALL THIS AT OUR MEETING ON 22 DECEMBER. YOURS SINCERELY,
MARGARET UNQUOTE.

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