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FM CABINET OFFICE LONDON  
TO THE WHITE HOUSE  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L  
MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR. ROBERT C. MC FARLANE,  
NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, WHITE HOUSE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 29 JANUARY ATTACHING THE VERY  
USEFUL CLARIFICATION FROM GENERAL ABRAHAMSON. I FOUND HIS BRIEFING  
EXTREMELY VALUABLE AND HOPE THAT YOU CAN ARRANGE FOR HIM TO KEEP  
ME PERSONALLY POSTED OF TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS ON THE STRATEGIC  
DEFENCE INITIATIVE.

I ANNEX REPLIES TO CAP WEINBERGER AND TO GENERAL ABRAHAMSON.  
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON 20 FEBRUARY.

WITH BEST WISHES.

MARGARET THATCHER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO SECRETARY WEINBERGER

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR LETTER AND FOR SENDING GENERAL ABRAHAMSON  
TO BRIEF ME ON PROGRESS ON THE STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE.  
I WAS AND REMAIN VERY IMPRESSED BY THE VIGOUR AND INGENUITY  
WHICH IS GOING INTO TACKLING THE IMMENSE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS  
IN THE BEST AMERICAN +CAN-DO+ MANNER. I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR  
OFFER TO KEEP OUR EXPERTS INFORMED : THIS WILL BE VERY USEFUL.

I HOPE THAT WE SHALL HAVE A CHANCE TO MEET DURING MY BRIEF  
VISIT TO WASHINGTON ON 20 FEBRUARY.

WITH BEST WISHES,

MARGARET THATCHER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO LIEUTENANT-GENERAL JAMES A.  
ABRAHAMSON.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR LETTER - AND LET ME SAY AGAIN  
HOW GRATEFUL I WAS FOR THE VERY FULL AND CLEAR BRIEFING WHICH  
YOU GAVE ME ON THE TECHNICAL PROGRESS OF THE STRATEGIC DEFENCE  
INITIATIVE. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO BRING ME UP TO DATE  
REGULARLY WITH THE WORK.

THE EXPANSION OF YOUR ANSWER TO MY QUESTION AT THE BRIEFING  
ABOUT +AUTOMATIC RESPONSE+ IS HELPFUL. I NOTE WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT  
THE LIMITED CONSEQUENCES OF A MISTAKEN LAUNCH OF DEFENSIVE  
SYSTEMS. BUT WOULD NOT AN INTEGRATED DEFENCE PLAN NEED TO BE  
PROGRAMMED TO CONDUCT PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACKS AT LEAST ON OTHER  
ENEMY SPACE SYSTEMS? AND WITH A PREDICTABLE ENEMY RESPONSE TO  
THIS THREAT, MIGHT NOT THE SEQUENCE OF AUTOMATICALLY-DRIVEN  
REACTIONS QUICKLY WIDEN, RISKING A GENERAL CONFLICT? PERHAPS  
THIS IS A POINT WHICH WE CAN DISCUSS FURTHER WHEN WE NEXT MEET.

WITH BEST WISHES,

MARGARET THATCHER

NNNN

SENT 31/1053Z RM

RECD 31/1053Z BH