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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 March, 1985

Dear Charles,

MB

Prime Minister
Agree that the
Foreign Secretary
may reply as
he proposes?

SDI: Message from Shultz

The US Embassy delivered to us on 25 March the
attached message to the Foreign Secretary from Mr Shultz. CDD

Subject to any comments the Prime Minister may have,
the Foreign Secretary intends to reply as in the
attached draft.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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March 23, 1985

Dear Geoffrey:

I have read with interest your speech of March 15 on "Defense and Security in the Nuclear Age." It is a cogent statement of certain of the strategic issues we may face in the coming year. The questions you raise are indeed important and justify our common attention.

I appreciate your reiterated support for the SDI research program, and am distressed to see your statement widely interpreted by the media as exposing some serious differences between our two governments. I know that Charlie Price has spoken to you of our concern that, as we embark upon a broad and vital new negotiating effort to reduce nuclear arms, and while we here also face crucial congressional votes on our defense budget, any such impression can only be destructive of our common aims.

In your statement you make reference to the possibility that constraints on ASATS might be agreed at an early stage in the current Geneva talks. Having closely examined this issue, we have concluded that such limitations, which in any case raise severe verification and other problems, would not be in our interest. We are accordingly not prepared to consider such restrictions, except perhaps at some later stage in negotiations, in the context of substantial progress toward significant reductions in nuclear arms.

I am sorry we did not have an opportunity to discuss your speech during our meeting in Moscow. Only through the closest possible consultation on these issues, which we have sought to sustain, can we together arrive at the right answers to the many important questions your statement of March 15 poses.

Paul Nitze will, as you know, be in London next week. I hope he will have an opportunity to discuss further some of the issues raised in the speech with you and your colleagues.

Sincerely,

/s/

George Shultz

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