

PRIME MINISTER

STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE

You have asked on the attached why I circulated a note of your meeting in Moscow with Vice President Bush.

I am very careful in the notes I do:

(a) not to record particularly sensitive points. In this particular case I noted that Mr. Shultz had said that the ABM Treaty contained a provision by which either side could give notice if they were not satisfied with it; also that by continuing to abide by the Treaty, the Americans were not necessarily saying that the United States would never deploy defensive weapons unless all parties agreed to it. The fact that Weinberger spoke similarly though more explicitly shows that this is becoming a standard American line.

(b) to ensure that the distribution of such notes is rigorously limited. In this case the relevant part of the note was sent only to the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Defence for the information of their Ministers and the most senior officials most directly concerned, as well as to Bryan Cartledge in the Cabinet Office.

Particularly in areas such as SDI where you are running our policy directly, it would really be very difficult if I could not keep your most senior advisers informed of points of major importance. And in any event, the Foreign Secretary, the Ambassador in Moscow and Mr. Broomfield were present at the meeting. It is best in such circumstances to have an authorised version of what was said. But I shall continue to exercise very great discretion.

e.d.
28 March 1985