

Prime Minister
C D P

19/4.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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19 April 1985

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Dear Charles,

Strategic Defence Initiative

The Prime Minister will recall that the briefing prepared for her visit to Washington in February contained a detailed description of the various areas in which differences exist between ourselves and the Americans on the subject of Soviet compliance with arms control agreements.

The Prime Minister will want to be aware in that connection that, in response to a US initiative, an MOD/FCO team of officials will be discussing compliance issues (and especially the Krasnoyarsk radar) in Washington on 2 May. The Secretary of State attaches considerable importance to both the political and technical aspects of this discussion. It will be important to use it to get a detailed account of the latest US thinking and to present our own analysis.

The same meeting in Washington will give us the chance to explore US intentions in respect of their obligations under the ABM Treaty.

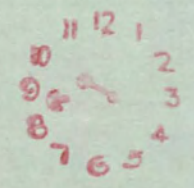
The Foreign Secretary has of course taken careful note about the Secretary of State for Defence's minute to the Prime Minister of 27 March, in which he recorded the background to the SDI references in the NPG communique. No doubt we can expect similar, though perhaps lesser, pressure in the drafting of the NATO Ministerial communique in June. It will be important in both these contexts to work constructively for a properly balanced approach that is consistent with the Camp David Four Points.

I am sending copies of this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and Richard Hatfield in Sir Robert Armstrong's office.

Yours ever,
L V Appleyard(L V Appleyard)
Private SecretaryC D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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19 APR 1985



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