

11/6/85

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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T111/85

O 111459Z JUN 85
FM CABINET OFFICE LONDON
TO THE WHITE HOUSE
BT

S E C R E T
MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
DEAR RON,

I WAS MOST GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE YOUR MESSAGE YESTERDAY ON THE QUESTION OF SALT II. I WARMLY WELCOME YOUR CHARACTERISTICALLY WISE AND HONOURABLE DECISION THAT THE US WILL CONTINUE TO OBSERVE THE CONSTRAINTS SET BY EXISTING STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENTS. IN PARTICULAR, I BELIEVE THAT THE PROCEDURE YOU OUTLINE FOR HANDLING THE DEACTIVATION OF THE EXISTING POSEIDON SSBN WILL PLACE THE US, AND THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE, IN THE BEST POSSIBLE POSITION AS FAR AS THE GENEVA TALKS ARE CONCERNED.

IT IS NOW UP TO THE SOVIET UNION TO SHOW ITS GOOD FAITH. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO PRESS THEM TO RESPECT THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER EXISTING ARMS AGREEMENTS. WE MUST NOT LET THE RUSSIANS BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE A BLANK CHEQUE TO SET THEIR OWN STANDARDS OVER COMPLIANCE. AND IT MUST CLEARLY BE RIGHT THAT RUSSIAN BEHAVIOUR SHOULD BE A FACTOR IN FUTURE DECISIONS ABOUT US STRATEGIC MODERNISATION.

I AM SURE THAT THE REST OF THE ALLIANCE WILL SHARE MY VIEW THAT THE QUOTE EXTRA MILE UNQUOTE THAT YOU ARE PREPARED TO GO IS EXACTLY THE RIGHT APPROACH. THE WEST IS BEING SEEN YET AGAIN TO HOLD THE MORAL HIGH GROUND IN THE ARMS CONTROL PROCESS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED CLOSE CONTACTS WITH YOU AS THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS UNFOLD, AND SEND YOU MY WARMEST BEST WISHES.

YOUR SINCERELY,

MARGARET.

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SENT AT 11:1528Z BY PRC