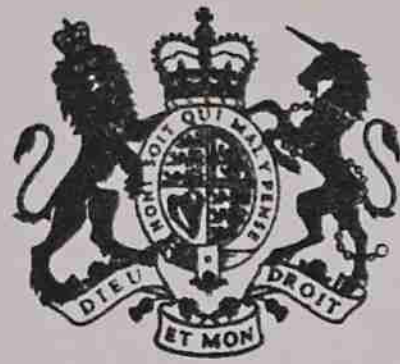


CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

25 October 1985

From the Private Secretary

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S MEETING WITH ALLIED LEADERS

I recorded the outcome of this meeting in UMKIS telegram number 935. The Prime Minister tells me that discussion at the subsequent dinner was largely anecdotal and nothing of moment was said. Sir Antony Acland will report the discussion at the separate dinner of Foreign Ministers which he attended in place of the Foreign Secretary.

At the end of the afternoon session, President Reagan asked the Prime Minister to let him have that same evening a suggested line to take with Gorbachev on the points which she had raised in the discussion among allied leaders (paragraph 2 of UMKIS telno 935 refers). The Prime Minister handed the President the enclosed note yesterday evening. I also gave a copy to Mr. McFarlane. It had to be run up rather hastily and has no formal status. You may nonetheless like to have it for your records.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

CHARLES POWELL

L.V. Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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*fe VC Acland.
cc Sir P.C*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'CP' or similar initials.

Given to the President
by the PM on 24/1

POINTS WHICH THE PRESIDENT MIGHT MAKE TO MR. GORBACHEV
ARISING FROM THE EFFECT OF S.D.I. ON THE SOVIET APPROACH

200

24/1

I want you to understand first of all that the United States is a peace loving country. We have never wanted war, never started a war and we don't covet anyone else's territory. There was a time back in the 1940s and 1950s when we had nuclear weapons and you didn't. But we never made use of that superiority to attack the Soviet Union or to threaten it. We want to live in peace with you.

For the last 30 years that peace has been guaranteed by nuclear deterrence based on approximate equality of nuclear weapons. We don't want to destroy that equality or upset that balance. On the contrary we want to maintain it. The world is a safer place if the Soviet Union and the United States are roughly equal in strength. But we would prefer to see that balance become predominantly one between defensive rather than offensive weapons. That is the purpose of our research programme into S.D.I. And I hope it is the reason why you also are doing this research.

It's no secret that it is going to take several years before we know whether this research is going to produce useable results, though the outlook is promising. We are still far from the phase of irrevocable decisions about a future generation of defensive systems.

We both need a degree of reassurance about what the other side is doing in an area of strategic defence. I think this could best come from reaffirming and strengthening the ABM Treaty. Despite some ambiguities this has served us well and it is something we both know. We could agree now to extend the period of notice needed for denunciation of the

Treaty. We could commit ourselves to negotiate further to try to achieve agreed interpretations of those parts of it about which our views differ.

But if we're more ambitious we could go beyond that. We might try to agree on what we would and would not do on strategic defence within a specified period. This would give us the reassurance of clarity about each other's intentions. It would also prepare us for the difficult and longer term task of negotiating a transition from strategies based on offence to strategies based on defence.

But for now I want to give you an absolute assurance on four points:-

- The U.S. will not seek superiority over you. Our goal is balance. And we recognise that you want and are entitled to the same.
- Secondly the U.S. will not do anything in its research and testing which contravenes the ABM Treaty.
- Thirdly if our work does move into new areas, we shall discuss them with you as provided for in Agreed Statement D to the ABM Treaty.
- And we shall not deploy strategic defence weapons without prior negotiation with you in accordance with the ABM Treaty.

I hope you will find what I have said reassuring. We have no designs on you. We recognise you as equals. We know that you are entitled as we are to feel secure. Let's

find that security for both of us by spelling out our intentions with clarity, explaining our motives with frankness and accepting that the world cannot be safe for one of us unless it is safe for both of us.