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10 DOWNING STREET

15 November, 1985.

From the Private Secretary

STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE RESEARCH:
UNITED KINGDOM PARTICIPATION

The Prime Minister has considered the report by the Official Group on the Strategic Defence Initiative on the proposed agreement on United Kingdom participation in the Strategic Defence Initiative Research (OD(85)25). She has also noted the comments by colleagues.

The Prime Minister shares the Lord President's view that there is nothing to be gained from further collective discussion among Ministers at this stage. Her conclusions are:

- (a) the various points about the Memorandum of Understanding which have been raised in Ministerial correspondence should be pursued further by the Defence Secretary with Mr. Weinberger and his staff to ensure that the detailed arrangements for British participation properly reflect them.
- (b) MISC 117 should continue to study which areas of SDI research are most likely to produce useful civil spin-off; and
- (c) agreement to participate in SDI research is without prejudice to the outcome of the wider study of our Research and Development priorities which is at present being carried out.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of OD and the Secretary of State of Education, to Michael Stark (Cabinet Office), and to Sir Robt Nicholson.

C.D. Powell

Richard Mottram, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

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