

USA

SUBJECT

ACTION

IMMEDIATE 170940Z MAY 79
FROM CABINET OFFICE LONDON
TO WHITE HOUSE

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T.8/79T**

TO: PRESIDENT CARTER
FROM: PRIME MINISTER THATCHER
CONFIDENTIAL

*Copied to Defence CTB ✓
SALT MAY 1979*

DEAR MR PRESIDENT,

THANK YOU FOR THE HELPFUL LETTER WHICH YOUR EMBASSY DELIVERED TO ME ON 13 MAY LETTING ME KNOW YOUR THINKING ON THE MANY ISSUES WE FACE, WHICH I HOPE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU NEXT MONTH. I WAS ALSO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 9 MAY ABOUT SALT: IT WAS MOST USEFUL TO ME TO HAVE THIS ADVANCE NOTICE OF YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MR. VANCE'S VISIT NEXT WEEK. I AM VERY GLAD HE IS COMING AND THAT WE SHALL HAVE THE CHANCE TO COVER SOME OF THE GROUND WITH HIM.

I SHOULD PREFER, IF I MAY, TO DELAY SENDING YOU A FULL REPLY TO THE VARIOUS POINTS YOU MAKE UNTIL AFTER OUR TALKS WITH MR. VANCE. AT THIS STAGE, I SIMPLY WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT I AM VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORTANT DECISIONS THAT HAVE TO BE TAKEN IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, PARTICULARLY ON DEFENCE AND ARMS CONTROL ISSUES, IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND OVER INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC MATTERS. YOU CAN RELY ON THE NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO PLAY A RESPONSIBLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS.

WITH WARM BEST WISHES,
MARGARET THATCHER

NNNNN

SENT AT 0955Z/17 NH
RECD AT 0955Z/17
AND MATE QSL FOR THAT AT 0957Z KKKK

CONFIDENTIAL



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USA

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 May 1979

UK/US Relations

Thank you for sending me, with your letter of 16 May, the draft of an interim reply which the Prime Minister might send to the message from President Carter, covering a number of international issues, which was delivered to her on 13 May.

The Prime Minister agreed that it would be inappropriate to send a full reply to President Carter until after Mr. Vance's visit to London. She made some amendments to the draft interim reply which you sent me and I now enclose the final text which was despatched to the White House over the hot line on 17 May.

Having now studied President Carter's message, the Prime Minister has commented: "We shall have to send quite a long and frank reply."

I am sending copies of this letter and enclosure to Roger Facer (Ministry of Defence) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

B. G. CARTLEDGE

J.S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J.S. Wall'.

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

President Carter's messages to you

A
B
see Defence May 79 (Salt, CTB)
You will recall that President Carter sent you a message over the hot line on 9 May about the impending announcement of the US/Soviet agreement on SALT; and a longer letter, on 13 May, setting out the US approach to a number of issues.

In view of Mr. Vance's visit early next week, FCO advice is that you should at this stage send only an interim response to President Carter and I attach a draft reply to both messages which promise something more substantive after Mr. Vance's visit.

If you agree with the draft, I shall arrange for it to be despatched over the hot line to the White House immediately.

B.M.

Agreed out

Despatched.

16 May 1979

*B. a.
G.M.
17/5*

USA



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 May 1979

*Draft returned to
Glen
16/5/79*

Dear Bryan,

UK/US Relations

Thank you for your letter of ¹⁴16 May asking for advice on a reply to President Carter's weekend message to the Prime Minister.

We recommend that the Prime Minister send a short interim reply. President Carter's letter covers a number of international issues on which it will be difficult to reply substantively before Mr Vance's visit next week. The discussions we will be having during Mr Vance's visit should add considerably to our knowledge of US thinking on SALT II and on the other topics raised and we should be in a much better position to reply fully after the visit.

/ I enclose a draft interim reply.

I am copying this letter to Roger Facer (MOD) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

*Yes even,
Stephen*

J S Wall
Private Secretary

Bryan Cartledge Esq
10 Downing Street

Registry No.

DRAFT LETTER

Type 1 +

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret.
- Secret.
- Confidential.
- Restricted.
- Unclassified.

To:-

The Honourable Jimmy Carter
President of the United States

From

Prime Minister

Telephone No. Ext.

Department

PRIVACY MARKING

In Confidence

As indicated, which you had said on 13 May

Thank you for ~~your~~ letter, and for letting me know your thinking on the many issues which we face and which I hope to discuss with you next month. In the meantime we are looking forward to ~~G. Vance's~~ ^{Mr. Vance's} visit next week. I am very glad he is coming and that we shall have the chance to cover some of the ground with him.

I ~~should~~ prefer, if I may, to delay sending you a ^{full} substantive reply to the various points you make until after our talks with ~~G. Vance~~ ^{Mr. Vance} next week. At this stage, ~~may~~ I simply ~~say~~ ^{wish to assure you} that I am very conscious of the important decisions that have to be taken in the next few months, particularly on defence and arms control issues, in the Middle East, in Southern Africa and over international economic matters. You can rely on ~~us~~ ^{the new British Government} to play a responsible and constructive role in the search for solutions to these problems.

I was also grateful for your message of 9 May about SALT; it was most useful to me to have this advance notice of your amendment.

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