SURJECT

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

TO: PRESIDENT CARTER FROM: PRIME MINISTER THATCHER CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. _T8/79T

Cofred to Defence CTBV SALT MAY 1979

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

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RECD AT Ø955Z/17
AND MATE QSL FOR THAT AT Ø957Z KKKK



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.

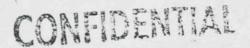
The Prime Minister agreed that it would be inappropriate to send a full reply to President Carter until after Mr. Vance's visit to London. She made some amendments to the draft interim reply which you sent me and I now enclose the final text which was despatched to the White House over the hot line on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



PRIME MINISTER President Carter's messages to you 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. Despatra.

8. 4.

Style

16 May 1979

USA CONFIDENTIAL Foreign and Commonwealth Office London SW1A 2AH 16 May 1979 Jan white UK/US Relations Thank you for your letter of 16 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). Private Secretary Bryan Cartledge Esq 10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL



Registry No.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret, Secret. Confidential. Restricted.

Unclassified.

PRIVACY MARKING

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To:-

LETTER

The Honourable Jimmy Carter

President of the United States

Type 1+

From

Prime Minister Telephone No. Ext.

Department

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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 meantim we are looking forward to Ca 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 would prefer, if I may, to delay sending you a substantive reply to the various points you make until after our talks with Wance next week. At this stage may I 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 as to play a responsible and constructive role in the search for solutions to these problems.

