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Prime Minster.

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SECRET

We shall let you have a
ref. A.S.C. 25/10.

MINI
PERSONAL MESSAGE
T161A/83
SERIAL No.

Dear Margaret:

Our defense ministers will shortly meet in Canada at the autumn meeting of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group (NPG), where they will review a comprehensive study, prepared by the NPG's High Level Group (HLG), on the future size and composition of NATO's nuclear stockpile. The decision to be taken by our defense ministers is important both to the Alliance's future military credibility and effectiveness and to public understanding and support for our defense posture.

If the NPG adopts the HLG recommendations, the Alliance will reduce its European nuclear stockpile to its lowest level in over twenty years. It is imperative that we explain to our publics our concerted efforts to sustain a credible deterrent force, and that we can safely undertake these reductions only if we remain committed to essential force improvements. We will have reduced our arsenal as far as we possibly can on a unilateral basis, and hope that the USSR will exercise similar restraint.

Secretary Weinberger has kept me closely informed of the HLG's work. We will be strongly endorsing -- as I hope you will -- the balanced approach which the HLG has recommended. Moreover, if the ministers approve the HLG's recommendations it will be essential that NATO's decision to reduce further its nuclear stockpile receive the public attention and understanding it merits. In that respect, I believe that we must avoid prior publicity about the HLG recommendations and work to focus maximum attention on the NPG ministerial decision once it is made.

For my part, I plan to highlight the importance of the NPG ministerial meeting by giving Secretary Weinberger a public send-off emphasizing our support for the current work of the NPG. Following the meeting, I plan to speak out publicly on the significance of the ministerial decision. I will be emphasizing that NATO nuclear forces are fundamental to the maintenance of peace and freedom and that these reductions in our nuclear stockpile are aimed both at enhancing stability at the lowest possible level of forces and at reducing tensions in Europe. I hope you will be able to join me in publicly underscoring the importance of these reductions and their contribution to a more stable military balance at the lowest possible level.

SECRET

We should be especially proud of NATO's success in maintaining peace for nearly four decades. We clearly demonstrated our commitment to reductions in our nuclear arsenal when we withdrew one thousand warheads in accordance with NATO's 1979 dual-track INF decision. Similarly, the 1979 decision's provision for replacement of existing warheads with LRINF warheads on a one-for-one basis, should deployments prove necessary, further underlined our dedication to maintaining deterrence at the lowest possible level of forces. The additional reductions now recommended by the HLG are further evidence of our determination in this regard.

We should thus take this opportunity to demonstrate the Alliance solidarity behind this new initiative -- supporting not only the welcome reductions envisioned, but, equally importantly, the actions recommended to upgrade and thereby to maintain the credibility and effectiveness of the resulting posture. These steps taken together will ensure that for the foreseeable future, we shall, as we have done so well in the past, be able successfully to deter Soviet aggression or intimidation. As leaders of the free world, I am sure you agree that we have no more important and urgent task than to communicate clearly to our publics our unceasing efforts to maintain peace and safeguard our freedom.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ron

Defence

Arms Control Talks

#4

24 OCT 1983

10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Subject

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. *T168/83*

CAB/WTE001/27

*cc. Master
ops.*

IMMEDIATE 271635Z OCT 83

FM CABINET OFFICE

TO WHITE HOUSE

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L

FOR THE PRESIDENT
FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

BEGINS,

DEAR RON,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER ABOUT THE NUCLEAR PLANNING
GROUP MEETING IN CANADA.

I AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH YOUR VIEWS ON THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE NPG DECISIONS ON THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF NATO'S
NUCLEAR STOCKPILE. OUR REPRESENTATIVES ON THE HIGH LEVEL
GROUP HAVE WORKED VERY CLOSELY TOGETHER TO PRODUCE A MOST
VALUABLE REPORT WHICH HAS MY FULL SUPPORT. WE HERE WILL
BE TAKING EVERY STEP WE CAN TO ENSURE THAT THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF THESE DECISIONS IS FULLY RECOGNISED BY PUBLIC OPINION IN
THIS COUNTRY.

YOURS EVER,
MARGARET.

ENDS
BT

NNNN

sent at 271644Z MJW

RECD OK ?

DE WHITEHOUSE AND QSL AT 27/1644Z

CONFIDENTIAL

271635Z.
IMMEDIATE



T168/83

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Ron

Thank you for your letter about the Nuclear Planning Group meeting in Canada.

I agree wholeheartedly with your views on the importance of the NPG decisions on the size and composition of NATO's nuclear stockpile. Our representatives on the High Level Group have worked very closely together to produce a most valuable report which has my full support. We here will be taking every step we can to ensure that the significance of these decisions is fully recognised by public opinion in this country.

*Yours ever
Margaret*

The President of the United States of America

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1

Telephone 01-230 7032 218 2111/3

MO 25/2/27/2

26th October 1983

Type letter pl.
✓ A.S.C. 26/10

New Inn,

NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP

attached
Thank you for your letter of 25th October enclosing a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from President Reagan about the next meeting of the Nuclear Planning Group.

The Defence Secretary suggests that the Prime Minister might send a short reply on the lines of the attached draft.

I am copying this letter and the attachment to Roger Bone (FCO) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours etc,

Richard Mottram

(R C MOTTRAM)

A J Coles Esq

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DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE USA

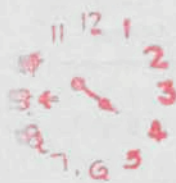
Thank you for your letter about the Nuclear Planning Group meeting in Canada.

I agree wholeheartedly with your views on the importance of the NPG decisions on the size and composition of NATO's nuclear stockpile. Our representatives on the High Level Group have worked very closely together to produce a most valuable report which has my full support. We here will be taking every step we can to ensure that the ^{significance} ~~importance~~ of these decisions is fully recognised by public opinion in this country.

A-JC $\frac{26}{u}$

REFERENCE
Arms Control

26 OCT 1963



SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 October, 1983

Nuclear Planning Group

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from President Reagan about the next meeting of the Nuclear Planning Group. The President seeks the Prime Minister's public support for his own statements on the significance of the decision to be taken by NATO Defence Ministers on the future size and composition of NATO's nuclear stockpile.

I should be grateful for a draft reply as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Roger Bone (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

Richard Mottram, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence

SECRET

Defense : Army Control Tables. Pt 4.