



file VSC  
as per Cadogan

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

3 January 1985

Dear Jen,

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN FEBRUARY:  
ARMS CONTROL

The Prime Minister had some discussion this afternoon with the Foreign Secretary about the work which will be required to prepare for her discussion ("seminar") with President Reagan in February on arms control matters. This is likely to be held on Wednesday 20 February.

The Prime Minister would like papers prepared on the main arms control issues with the intention of passing them to the Americans well in advance of the meeting. I understand that Mr. Cartledge already has the preparation of such papers in hand in consultation with the FCO and MOD. The Prime Minister's intention would be to discuss these at a briefing meeting some weeks before her Washington visit. We are trying to find a convenient date for this and shall be in touch with you shortly. But it could be as early as 30 January and you will want to plan on the basis of the papers being available a few days in advance of that.

The question of participation on the UK side will depend in good part on how the Americans themselves visualise the 20 February meeting. It would be helpful to have guidance from the Embassy in Washington on this. My impression from talking to HM Ambassador, Washington during the Prime Minister's visit in December was that it was unlikely that the "seminar" would last more than 2/2½ hours. Are we right to assume that the President would be accompanied by Secretary of State Shultz and Secretary Weinberger? If that is the case, the Prime Minister would no doubt wish the Foreign Secretary and the Defence Secretary to accompany her, though she would like to be sure of American intentions before finally making up her mind on this. The Prime Minister has made it clear, however, that she would wish to restrict participation beyond this as narrowly as possible, in the belief that this will make for a more useful discussion. It would also be helpful to know from the Embassy in Washington whether the Americans propose to prepare any papers for the "seminar".

Bo

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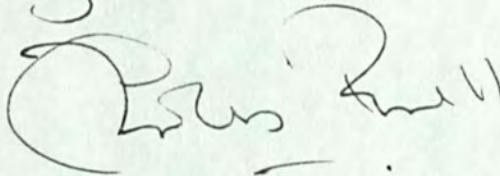
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As you are aware - though the Prime Minister does not wish the fact to be widely known - President Reagan is sending Mr. Macfarlane to brief her on the Strategic Defence Initiative. We do not yet have a date for this. The briefing will be limited to the Prime Minister herself, though it may be that Mr. Macfarlane will be ready to give separate briefings to other Ministers. I have already asked Mr. Cartledge to collate existing material on our knowledge of Soviet capabilities and research in the area of ABM and Ballistic Missile Defence as well as our information on the American research effort. This will serve as a basic brief for the Prime Minister's meeting with Mr. Macfarlane.

Finally, I should note for the record that the Prime Minister has asked for texts of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, the 1972 ABM Treaty and the SALT 2 Agreements so that she can study them in preparation for the February "seminar". Mr. Cartledge has kindly agreed to provide these.

I am sending copies of this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,  


C.D. POWELL

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

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