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cc PC

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
LONDON

October 9, 1986

CDP
9/11

Dear Prime Minister:

Enclosed is a letter which the President has asked
that we deliver to you as soon as possible.

(re Iceland)

With best wishes.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Price, II
Ambassador

Enclosure: SECRET

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
Number 10 Downing Street,
London, SW1.

SUBJECT
cc Ops
master

SECRET

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 184A/86

Prime Minister
This crossed with your
message. It is generally
October 8, 1986
reaffirming about the
subjects to be discussed,
but gives away little

Dear Margaret:

On the eve of my departure to meet with General Secretary Gorbachev in Iceland, I wanted to share my thoughts on the discussions ahead. My objective in Reykjavik is to increase the likelihood that the coming summit in the United States will be productive. I expect our meetings to be private and businesslike. I do not anticipate any formal agreements. To enhance the atmosphere for serious dialogue, we have suggested a press blackout during the actual meetings.

on substance
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9/x.

First, allow me to emphasize my continuing commitment to managing differences in the U.S.-Soviet relationship. I plan to identify issues with reasonable prospects of solutions and hope to accelerate our efforts to resolve them. I will engage the Soviets in substantive discussion on all four parts of the agenda: human rights, arms reductions, regional issues, and bilateral matters.

Continuing Western solidarity is essential for achieving further progress. The consultation session in New York was very useful to me. I have asked Assistant Secretary Ridgway and Ambassador Nitze to meet with the North Atlantic Council on October 9. Secretary Shultz will brief the Council in Brussels on October 13, following the Reykjavik meeting.

The Daniloff affair demonstrated once again how basic differences over human rights and the freedom of the individual remain a serious barrier to improvements in East-West relations. In my view, the Soviets could implement human rights improvements at little or no cost to them. Among other areas, we need to see progress on Jewish emigration and divided families. I will make it clear to the General Secretary that progress on human rights is seriously lagging and hope that you will make this same point at every opportunity.

US Declassified

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In the last few months, some progress has been made on arms control and I hope to build on this. As you may recall, my letter to General Secretary Gorbachev of July 25 spelled out my views on the relationship between strategic offense and defense. The U.S. seeks, as a matter of highest priority, significant and stabilizing reductions in strategic offensive weapons, and we have also proposed a way to move to greater future reliance for deterrence on strategic defense, rather than offense. I outlined this approach publicly in my recent speech to the UN.

The Soviets recently have emphasized INF as an area for near-term progress. We have made some headway in INF, but several significant differences remain. My objective at Reykjavik is to test whether the Soviets are ready to work constructively toward our mutually-agreed goal of an interim INF agreement. I remain acutely aware of your special interests in this area.

The Soviets have, as well, emphasized the issue of nuclear testing. I will repeat to Gorbachev that the U.S. seeks a practical step-by-step process for limiting nuclear tests. The first step must be to achieve necessary improvements in the verification procedures of the existing threshold treaties, which will permit us to move forward on ratification. Progress is possible if Mr. Gorbachev does not insist on the "all or nothing" approach which has characterized his public posture thus far.

Regional issues will also be high on my agenda. I will stress that the tensions generated by Soviet expansionism undermine the basis for constructive steps in other areas. We seek a rapid, complete Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. We are also deeply concerned about the Soviet role in other regional conflicts, such as in Central America. Unless and until Soviet policies change, we will have to sustain our efforts to counter them. At the same time, I will assure Mr. Gorbachev that the U.S. is prepared for constructive joint steps on regional questions when Soviet policies permit.

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Since last year's summit, there has been a good deal of activity in bilateral matters, such as cultural exchanges. We have expanded contacts among our young people, our educators, our artists, and our scientists. I plan to review this quiet but important aspect of our relations and to look for ways to expand these important activities.

The deep and abiding differences between the West and the Soviet Union will not be resolved at Reykjavik. I do, however, go prepared for serious exchanges in all four areas of the U.S.-Soviet agenda. There is only a short time remaining before the meeting, but I would welcome any thoughts you may have. As I have often noted, your counsel and support are a key element of my approach to these important meetings.

I have just received your thoughtful comments, and will keep them very much in mind in Reykjavik. I will be back in touch after the meeting.

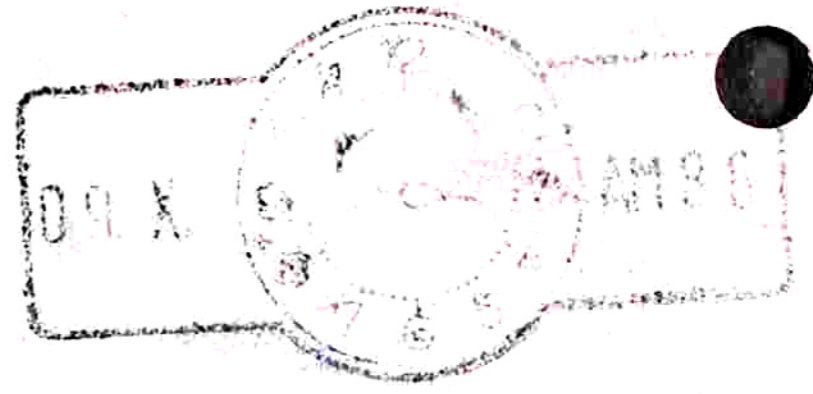
Sincerely,

/s/

Ronald Reagan

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