PRIME MINISTER

EDD 12/x

US - SOVIET MEETING IN REYKJAVIK

I was telephoned shortly after 1600 today to be given a report on the state of play in the Reykjavik meeting, strictly for your personal information. This was before the additional session of the talks which is now in progress. The essence was that a "tentative deal" was being discussed on INF which would involve zero-zero in Europe with 100 medium range weapons in Asia and 100 in the United States. Short range systems would be frozen and there would be follow-on negotiations about them. The Soviet Union would not seek any concession for French and British systems: indeed they would be left out of account altogether. This deal woul be part of a package which would also cover START and other areas. Teams would be set up to work out detailed arrangements which would be incorporated in the form of a treaty or some other agreement which would be signed at a subsequent meeting. It was stressed more than once that this was still all tentative. My impression is that the Americans fear that there will be some sort of leak and wanted to be sure that we heard first from them of the way negotiations are going.

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C. D. POWELL

12 October 1986