MR TIM RENTON ON WORLD AT ONE, MONDAY 13 OCTOBER 1986

Q. What is your reaction to the failure of the Summit?

A. I don't agree with your description that it ended in failure, at all. I think it would have been a failure for President Reagan not to try. Obviously the Western World and we in the United Kingdom would like to have seen a positive result, but what I think is surprising is that President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev did get so far in discussing so many important details. A lot of serious proposals have emerged notably about the reduction in strategic missiles and the possible elimination of all the medium range missiles. I hope that these thoughts, this material that has been brought to the surface will now be worked on and developed when negotiations resume in Geneva and I trust that will be very soon.

Q. What was the mood and tone of the meeting of the Allies with Mr Shultz this morning?

A. First, very great thanks to Mr Shultz for coming so quickly from Iceland to brief us all. He spent nearly three hours with us explaining the detail of what had happened in Iceland and then answering questions. Second, an absolute determination to build on the substantive ideas that emerged from Iceland to see that the momentum is kept up because this is an extremely long and laborious road. The prize in sight is very great indeed but the detail is very difficult and what we have all got to do now is to work even more on the detail to ensure that we win the prize.

Q. What is the answer to the allegations here in Europe that a deal on Euro missiles which would have been of immense benefit to Western Europe has been thrown out of the window because President Reagan insists upon pursuing the SDI which very few people in Europe believe in?

A. That's a bit upside-down frankly. The Russians agreed at a previous Summit that a deal on intermediate weapons that are the medium-range weapons could and should be negotiated without

reference to a further or other deal on strategic weapons and space defence with which they are connected. The intermediate weapons deal may well have been in sight but the Russians unfortunately went back on this previous agreement of theirs. They have moved the goal post and they have now said that there couldn't be an intermediate weapons deal without also a deal on strategic and space defence at the same time. That is what we have got to go on arguing about in Geneva to see that the Russians go back to their previous position. It is frankly quite illogical to connect these issues.