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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Embargoed for Release at 5:00 P.M. EDT
May 27, 1987

INTERVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT
BY
FOREIGN PRINT JOURNALISTS

The Oval Office

May 26, 1987

11:36 A.M. EDT

Q Peter Pringle, from The Independent in London. Over the years, Britain, irrespective of which political party is in power, has enjoyed a strong, special relationship with the United States, including an American military presence with nuclear weapons on British soil. Irrespective of the result of the general election now being fought in Britain, will you do everything in your power to maintain this relationship in general and specific terms?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It's difficult for me to conceive of a time when we would not have the almost family relationship that we have between our two countries. I have admired the -- your Prime Minister and the progress that has been made in many fields there, but I know that I can't go beyond that because I'm not going to, again, intervene or express an opinion with regard to your politics.

But the relationship between our two countries does go back many, many years and I think it would take more than an election in either one of our countries to change that.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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For Immediate Release

May 27, 1987

INTERVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT
BY
FOREIGN TELEVISION JOURNALISTS

The Oval Office

11:30 A.M. EDT

Q Mr. President, you'll be meeting Mrs. Thatcher when you go to Venice. She may shortly be replaced as Prime Minister of Great Britain. Will you preserve the special relationship between American and Great Britain, whoever is in power in Britain?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think the relationship between our two countries has been an almost family relationship for many years and many different governments of the United Kingdom in the past. I don't want to seem to, in any way, try to influence the election in England, but I have to tell you that I have great admiration for the manner in which Prime Minister Thatcher has handled, not only the domestic affairs, but the international affairs. And beyond that, I can't go with an election coming up.

Q But we could be quite clear on the first part of my question, that even if there was a government in the United Kingdom which embraces unilateral disarmament and seeks the removal of U.S. nuclear bases from Great Britain, you would still maintain your special relationship with such a government?

THE PRESIDENT: I would try with all of my might to persuade that government not to make those grievous errors, and yet as I say, we have had a friendly relationship that has survived labor governments in the past, as well as conservative governments there.

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