

RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 October 1985

*Dear Charles,*

*CRB  
29/10*

Prime Minister's Questions, 29 October

I sent you yesterday Notes for Supplementaries on current US proposals for strategic and INF arms reductions. I now enclose an amended text, which reflects consultations with the US Embassy.

The most recent public statement of the US position was made by Mr Shultz in an address to the North Atlantic Assembly on 14 October. The proposals which he outlined as being on the table at Geneva (in the negotiations which began on 12 March) are with minor exceptions not new: they date back to the earlier START negotiations, which began in January 1982 and the INF negotiations which began in November 1981.

We suggest that the Prime Minister should describe the US proposals as being "on the table at Geneva". It would be best to avoid giving the impression that they are new.

I enclose the relevant extracts from Mr Shultz's 14 October speech.

*Yours ever,*

*C R Budd*

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED



EXISTING US PROPOSALS: START/INF

In talks on strategic arms reductions, US have proposed radical reductions to 5000 ballistic missile warheads on each side - a cut of nearly 50 % in current Soviet level. Also proposed substantial reductions in number and destructive power (throwweight) of ballistic missiles, and limits on heavy bombers and on the cruise missiles they carry. US side have offered to explore trade-offs between areas of relative advantage.

In the INF negotiations, US have proposed total elimination of US and Soviet long range INF missiles. This unacceptable to Soviet Union, so US proposed equal and global limits on LRINF warheads. Limits must be global because SS20 is highly transportable missile. Cannot export current security problem from Europe to Asia. US also proposed limits on short range INF and discussions on limiting certain types of land-based nuclear-capable aircraft.