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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 February 1986

US RESPONSE TO GORBACHEV'S PROPOSALS

Thank you for your letter of 13 February enclosing a copy of the President's message to Lord Carrington about Gorbachev's proposals. I confirm that we have not received any similar message addressed to the Prime Minister either directly from the White House or through the American Embassy.

(CHARLES POWELL)

L.V. Appleyard, Esq., CMG,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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cell



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 February 1986

Prime Minister

It is most odd that we never received this message, though Nitze made many of the points in it orally to you.

Handwritten mark resembling a stylized 'M' or 'W' with an arrow pointing upwards.

C D P 13/2.

Dear Charles,

US Response to Gorbachev Proposals

You will remember that Colin Budd told you in Canterbury yesterday that according to the US Embassy there had been a recent message from President Reagan to the Prime Minister, and that you said no such message had been received.

It emerged at the NATO Consultations on 12 February that President Reagan had on 5/6 February sent virtually identical messages to (apparently) all NATO Heads of Government, and to Lord Carrington. I enclose a copy of the one to Lord Carrington and of the addition to the short round robin which was added for Paris and London. The message includes the impeccable formula on British and French nuclear systems (reported from Paris in their Tel No 133).

As you know, the Prime Minister's message of 11 February and the Foreign Secretary's message to Mr Shultz (FCO Tel No 247 to Washington) were drafted in ignorance of President Reagan's message. Their substance none the less seems to us to be broadly valid.

We have told the Americans that the President's message seems not to have been received in London. You may like to check whether the message was transmitted direct from the White House (as the Americans at the NATO meeting asserted after checking with their own people) and subsequently either not received or not distributed.

[We have checked thoroughly: it was not.]

Yours ever,

Len Appleyard
(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

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