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SUBJECT:

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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T39/86

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FM CABINET OFFICE LONDON
TO THE WHITE HOUSE
BT

S E C R E T
MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

DEAR RON,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 22 FEBRUARY EXPLAINING HOW YOU INTEND TO RESPOND TO MR. GORBACHEV'S ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD IN MID-JANUARY. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR REPLY HAS NOW BEEN SENT.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR TAKING ACCOUNT OF MY COMMENTS AND FOR DEALING SO FIRMLY WITH THE SOVIET ATTEMPT TO CONSTRAIN BRITISH FORCES. THE PLAN WHICH YOU NOW INTEND TO PUT FORWARD FOR A PHASED MOVE TO A ZERO-ZERO OUTCOME STRIKES ME AS INGENIOUS AND WELL-JUDGED TO TEST THE EXTENT OF GORBACHEV'S FLEXIBILITY.

I LIKEWISE WELCOME THE EMPHASIS YOU PUT ON THE NEED FOR PROGRESS IN THE CONVENTIONAL AND CW NEGOTIATIONS. IN MY OWN REPLY TO MR. GORBACHEV I SHALL ALSO BE STRESSING THIS, AND MAKING THE POINT THAT THE EAST'S RESPONSE ON MBFR, WHICH WAS THE FIRST CONCRETE ACTION SINCE HE MADE HIS PROPOSALS, DID NOT LIVE UP TO HIS PROMISES OVER ADEQUATE VERIFICATION.

I LOOK FORWARD IN DUE COURSE TO HEARING YOUR REACTION TO THE OTHER POINTS MADE IN MY LETTER OF 11 FEBRUARY. MEANWHILE YOU CONTINUE TO ENJOY OUR FULL SUPPORT - AND OUR THANKS FOR CONSULTING SO FULLY.

WITH WARM GOOD WISHES,

YOURS SINCERELY,
MARGARET

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 February 1986

**ARMS CONTROL: RESPONSE TO
GORBACHEV'S PROPOSALS**

I enclose a copy of the Prime Minister's reply to President Reagan's message of 22 February, which we have sent on the direct link to the White House.

C D POWELL

Len Appleyard, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SECRET

SAW