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OCMIAN 9128
CONFIDENTIAL
DD 261430Z PARIS
FM FCOLN TO PARIS
261340Z MAY
GRS 340

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO. T 100 xc / 86

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FM FCO
TO DESKBY 261430Z PARIS
TELNO 344
OF 261340Z MAY 86
AND TO DESKBY 261430Z BONN
INFO DESKBY 261430Z WASHINGTON
INFO DESKBY 261430Z JERUSALEM

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO
PRESIDENT MITTERAND/CHANCELLOR KOHL

BEGINS

SALT CONSTRAINTS

YOU WILL HAVE RECEIVED A MESSAGE, AS I HAVE, FROM PRESIDENT
REAGAN ABOUT HIS ANNOUNCEMENT TOMORROW ON CONTINUED COMPLIANCE
WITH THE SALT II AGREEMENT. I WELCOME THE POSITIVE STEP HE HAS
TAKEN TO ABIDE FOR THE MOMENT BY ITS TERMS, BUT I AM MUCH
CONCERNED BY THE PROVISIONAL INTENTION TO EXCEED THE LIMITS
LATER THIS YEAR. I BELIEVE IT CRUCIAL THAT THIS SHOULD NOT
CAUSE FURTHER DISSENSION WITHIN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE, AND I
THEREFORE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO LET YOU KNOW HOW I INTEND
TO RESPOND PUBLICLY TO THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

AS INDICATED ABOVE, I PROPOSE TO WELCOME THE POSITIVE STEPS, AS
ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION OF US COMMITMENT TO THE ARMS CONTROL
PROCESS. I WILL RE-EMPHASISE THE IMPORTANCE OF ALL PARTIES TO
AGREEMENTS COMPLYING WITH THEIR OBLIGATIONS. I WILL UNDERLINE
THE LEGITIMACY OF US CONCERNS ABOUT SOVIET BEHAVIOUR, AND THE

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NEED FOR THE RUSSIANS TO ANSWER THE CASE. AND I WILL EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT, OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, ESPECIALLY WITH ANOTHER US-SOVIET SUMMIT IN THE OFFING, SCRUPULOUS COMPLIANCE BY THE RUSSIANS TO MATCH CONTINUED AMERICAN RESTRAINT WILL OFFER A PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVE TO EITHER SIDE EXCEEDING THE CURRENT SALT LIMITS.

I TRUST THAT THIS SORT OF PUBLIC APPROACH WILL HELP TO AVOID SHARP DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE ALLIANCE, AT HALIFAX AND SUBSEQUENTLY: THAT AT THE SAME TIME IT WILL SEND A CLEAR SIGNAL TO THE RUSSIANS OF THE NEED FOR THEM TO RESPOND MORE SERIOUSLY BOTH AT GENEVA AND TO US CONCERNS ON NON-COMPLIANCE: AND THAT IT WILL DEMONSTRATE OUR CONCERN AT THE EFFECT THAT THE PLANNED ANNOUNCEMENT WILL HAVE AND THAT THE HARM WHICH IT IS LIKELY TO DO TO THE UNITED STATES' POSITION.

I AM WRITING IN SIMILAR TERMS TO HELMUT KOHL/FRANCOIS MITTERAND.
ENDS

HOWE

LIMITED
HD/ACDD
HD/DEK D
PS
PS/PUS
MR DEREK THOMAS
MR GOODALL
MR DAUNT

X
OASB TO
B/NO 10.
PS/SIR R. ARSTON,

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