

SUBJECT CC OPS
MASTER

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OCMIAN 9129
SECRET
DD 261430Z WASHI
FM FCOLN TO WASHI
261341Z MAY
GRS 340

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T100 XB/86

SECRET
FM FCO
TO DESKBY 261430Z WASHINGTON
TELNO 956
OF 261341Z MAY 86

~~US Declassified~~

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO
PRESIDENT REAGAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BEGINS

OALT CONSTRAINTS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 23 MAY WHICH I HAVE CONSIDERED
WITH GREAT CARE.

YOUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE YOUR INTERIM RESTRAINT DECISION FOR
THE TIME BEING, BY ORDERING THE NECESSARY DISMANTLING OF TWO
SUBMARINES, IS WELCOME. BUT YOU WILL KNOW FROM MY MESSAGE OF
ONE MONTH AGO THAT THE OTHER PART OF YOUR DECISION - PROVISION-
ALLY NOT TO ABIDE BY THE SALT II LIMITS AT THE END OF THIS
YEAR - CAUSES ME CONCERN.

YOUR WILL KNOW MY VIEWS ABOUT SOVIET NON-COMPLIANCE FROM MY
EARLIER MESSAGE. I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE PUBLIC CASE ON
SOVIET NON-COMPLIANCE WHICH HAS SO FAR BEEN MADE OUT IS NOT
SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR AND CONVINCING TO CARRY CONVICTION WITH
PUBLIC OPINION. THE WAY IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO
BREACH THE SALT II CONSTRAINTS IS, BY CONTRAST, UNAMBIGUOUS. I
ALSO CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL BE HANDING GORBACHEV
AN ENORMOUS PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE JUST AT THE MOMENT WHEN HE IS

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ON THE DEFENSIVE OVER CHERNOBYL, AND WILL PUT THE UNITED STATES RATHER THAN THE SOVIET UNION IN THE WRONG. THIS WILL COME JUST WHEN WE ARE ABOUT TO TRY AT THE NATO HALIFAX MEETING TO BRING HOME TO WESTERN OPINION THAT IT IS US, NOT GORBACHEV, WHO REALLY SEEK PROGRESS ON ARMS CONTROL.

I AM, THEREFORE, FEARFUL OF THE EFFECT WHICH THE PLANNED ANNOUNCEMENT WILL HAVE AND OF THE HARM WHICH IT WILL DO TO THE UNITED STATES' POSITION. I SHALL DO MY BEST, IN ANY PUBLIC COMMENT, TO WELCOME THE POSITIVE SIDE OF YOUR DECISIONS, TO URGE THE RUSSIANS TO RESPOND TO YOUR CONCERNS, AND TO PRESERVE ALLIANCE UNITY. I NOTE THAT YOU HAVE LEFT THE DOOR OPEN TO THE SOVIET UNION TO RESPOND POSITIVELY AND THAT YOU WOULD TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT. I HOPE THIS WILL HAPPEN. BUT I SHALL HAVE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT I WOULD MUCH REGRET IT IF YOUR PROVISIONAL DECISION TO EXCEED THE LIMITS HAS TO BE IMPLEMENTED. ENDS.

HOWE

LIMITED
HOLACDD
HOLDEF 3
R3
R1/RUS
MR DEREK THOMAS
MR GOODALL
MR DAUNT

CORES TO
R3/NOO10
R3/SIC. R. AB-STROG

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