

SECRET

PRIME MINISTER

CDP

ARMS CONTROL

The President has replied to your message about his latest arms control proposals. He has taken our main point about deleting the reference to participation of third country nuclear forces. He has also confirmed a reasonable interpretation of the ABM Treaty.

mt

[Signature]

pp.

C D POWELL

26 July 1986

SECRET

SECRET



File *SM*
POD *2879* **15**

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

26 July 1986

**ARMS CONTROL: REPLY TO THE
PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

I enclose a copy of President Reagan's reply to the Prime Minister's recent message on arms control. From having it read over to me, it sounds as though our main points have been taken satisfactorily. You will no doubt want to send a copy of it to the Foreign Secretary in Southern Africa.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to John Howe (Ministry of Defence) and Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

C D POWELL

The Resident Clerk,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SECRET



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
LONDON

July 26, 1986

Dear Prime Minister:

I have been asked to deliver the attached message to you from President Reagan, which was received at the Embassy early this morning.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Price, II for Charles H.
Charles H. Price, II
Ambassador *Price, II*

Enclosure:

SECRET

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W. 1.



CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T141/86

SUBJECT CC MASTER
OPS

US Declassified

July 26, 1986 14

Dear Margaret:

Thank you very much for the comments you and your colleagues gave Ambassador Nitze on my planned response to Gorbachev, and for your personal message to me. As always, I value your counsel, and your comments have been most helpful in refining my response.

I have transmitted my response to the General Secretary. The basic positions will be the same as I outlined in my letter of July 21, and I will not repeat them here. A number of adjustments have been made to take account of comments made by you and others. In particular, the reference to other nuclear powers that caused you some concern has been deleted.

I have also made clear the need for a successful conclusion of CDE and progress on conventional force issues, and made clear that the reductions in offensive nuclear forces should be carried out in a manner that enhances stability.

You raised the question of the correct interpretation of the ABM treaty. My response to Gorbachev does not reflect any change in our policy on this question. So there is no misunderstanding, let me repeat that policy here. The broader interpretation of our authority is fully justified and reflects an objective assessment of what was achieved and mutually agreed by the signed treaty document. All this being said, our technical community has designed our SDI research program to meet its research objectives while conforming to a more restrictive view of our ABM treaty obligations. I decided last October that as long as the program receives the support needed to implement its carefully crafted plan to achieve the goals set for it, it is not necessary to authorize the restructuring of the U.S. SDI program toward the boundaries of treaty interpretation which the U.S. could observe. This continues to our policy.

In order to maximize prospects for serious negotiations, the United States does not plan to disclose the details of its proposal in the coming weeks. We would prefer to keep these negotiations confidential. If there should be unauthorized

SECRET

SECRET

leaks to the press, we do not intend to confirm them officially. We would certainly appreciate general statements of support for our approach, but ask that you continue to hold closely the details of our proposals.

Again I thank you for your prompt and thoughtful response. The solidarity of the west is essential to our success in these difficult negotiations.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Ronald Reagan

SECRET