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SRWAKP (OPG)

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bc: PC

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LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

16 October 1986

*Dear Sir,*

ARMS CONTROL

I have written separately about the Prime Minister's talk with President Mitterrand on arms control issues. You will see that there was a suggestion that both the Prime Minister and President Mitterrand should send messages to President Reagan. On reflection the Prime Minister would prefer, at least in the first instance, instructions to be sent to Sir Antony Acland to talk to Secretaries Shultz and Weinberger and perhaps also Admiral Poindexter. The instructions should be based on the points made by the Prime Minister in Cabinet today and subsequently to President Mitterrand. They should be designed to elicit an authoritative account of US intentions on the handling of discussions in Geneva. They should also bring home the full weight of our concern about the proposal for the elimination of strategic nuclear weapons and establish US intentions on discussion of this issue in NATO. (The Prime Minister has already noted the exchange between Mr. Renton and Mr. Nitze on this subject). I should be grateful for a sight of the instructions in draft.

I am copying this letter to John Howe (Ministry of Defence) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

*Yours sincerely*  
*Charles Powell*

Charles Powell

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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