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*From the Private Secretary*

1 June 1987

*Dear Robert,*

VENICE ECONOMIC SUMMIT: POSSIBLE EAST/WEST DECLARATION

Thank you for your letter of 1 June about the fresh draft for a possible East/West declaration at Venice which the Americans have produced. I agree that it is a great improvement on what is on offer at present. I also agree that it would be inappropriate for us to circulate it. My only disagreement is on the tactics. I think that we should tell the Americans that the Prime Minister's willingness to subscribe to their draft would be considerably enhanced if they were willing to include a reference in the fourth paragraph to the continuing important role of nuclear weapons in preserving peace. If the Americans themselves could be brought to put forward a text with this thought in it, it might save us an awkward negotiation in Venice.

I am not able to obtain the Prime Minister's views within your deadline. But I am sure that she would agree with what is said above.

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

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Chris Powell*

C. D. POWELL

Robert Culshaw, Esq., M.V.O.,  
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