

US Declassified

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SUBJECT

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FM THE WHITE HOUSE  
TO THE CABINET OFFICE  
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S E C R E T VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS WHO7741

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we understand that  
equipment deliveries  
are no use drop in  
everything but the  
missiles.  
mk

Prime Minister

We shall let you have a  
draft refg soon.

OR 6.  
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OCTOBER 6, 1983

DEAR MARGARET:

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS APPROACHED  
YOURS REGARDING A DELAY IN THE ARRIVAL OF GROUND-LAUNCHED CRUISE  
MISSILES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

AS WE DISCUSSED LAST WEEK IN WASHINGTON, IT IS ABSOLUTELY  
ESSENTIAL THAT OUR INF MODERNIZATION PROGRAM REMAIN ON SCHEDULE,  
AND I WAS ENCOURAGED BY YOUR EMPHASIS THAT THE KOHL GOVERNMENT  
WILL NOT FALTER. THE DELAY IN THE BUNDESTAG DEBATE, NOW COUPLED  
WITH THE GERMAN APPROACH TO YOUR GOVERNMENT, ARE ESPECIALLY  
TROUBLING.

WHILE I AM SENSITIVE TO THE GERMAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL  
SITUATION, I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD HELP THE KOHL GOVERNMENT FOR  
US TO DELAY EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES TO THE UNITED KINGDOM. INDEED,  
SUCH A DELAY COULD ENCOURAGE FURTHER DELAYS AND JEOPARDIZE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF NATOS DECISION ON SCHEDULE. THEREFORE, I HOPE  
THAT YOU WILL INFORM THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT THAT EQUIPMENT  
DELIVERIES TO THE UK MUST ADHERE TO THE EXISTING SCHEDULE, WHICH  
ENVISIONS INITIAL DELIVERIES ON NOVEMBER 1. IN MY VIEW, THIS IS  
THE BEST WAY FOR US TO WORK TOGETHER TO HELP THE GERMANS.

IT WAS GOOD TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTERS WITH  
YOU FIRST-HAND LAST WEEK. PLEASE KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH.

WARM REGARDS

SINCERELY,

RON

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*File 116*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

6 October 1983

INF

I enclose a copy of a message which the Prime Minister has just received from the President of the United States about the above subject.

*BT*  
I should be grateful if you would let me have a draft reply, agreed with the Ministry of Defence, as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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