

CONFIDENTIAL

CATF



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone 01-830 7023 218 6169

D/S of S/PQ 7730

14th November 1983

Dear John,

A.J.C. 14/11
f.a.

DELIVERY OF CRUISE MISSILES
TO RAF GREENHAM COMMON

Further to Richard Mottram's letter earlier today (not to all copy-addressees), I attach two copies of the draft Statement which Mr Heseltine intends to make to the House this afternoon on the delivery of cruise missiles to RAF Greenham Common.

Copies of this letter go to Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's office), David Heyhoe (Lord Privy Seal's office), Murdo MacLean (Chief Whip's office) (6 copies), David Beamish (Lords Whips office) (8 copies), Roger Bone (FCO), Bernard Ingham and Richard Hatfield (Sir Robert Armstrong's office). I am sending copies separately to the Speaker's Secretary.

Yours ever,
Benny Neale

(B P NEALE)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
ON CRUISE MISSILE DELIVERIES

With permission, Mr Speaker, I should like to make a statement about preparations for the operational deployment of cruise missiles in the United Kingdom.

On 31st October, this House reaffirmed by a majority of 144 its support for the NATO 1979 twin track decision on intermediate range nuclear forces, its backing for the West's efforts to achieve a balanced and verifiable agreement at the Geneva negotiations, and confirmed that in the absence of agreement on the zero option cruise missiles must be operationally deployed in the United Kingdom at the end of 1983.

In the course of that debate, I indicated that the initial supporting equipment for the first flight of cruise missiles had been arriving at RAF Greenham Common for some time, that further equipment, including the transporter-erector-launchers, would be arriving shortly, and that I would make a further statement when the missiles themselves arrived in this country. In honouring that commitment I should inform the House that, earlier today, the first cruise missiles were delivered by air to RAF Greenham Common.

The delivery of the missiles is wholly consistent with the Alliance decision, to achieve an initial operational capability by the end of 1983 in the absence of agreement on the zero option.

CONFIDENTIAL

Much work remains to be done - including the final assembly and testing of equipments and personnel training - before the missiles are operational.

I wish to emphasise that these continuing preparations for operational deployment do not in any way lessen NATO's commitment to negotiations or reduce the desire of the Alliance to reach agreement on arms control with the Soviet Union. The NATO deployment is planned to be completed over a 5-year period; it can be halted, modified or reversed at any time if results in Geneva warrant it.

But the fact remains that since the 1979 decision the Soviet Union has almost trebled - from 126 to 360 - the number of SS20 missiles it has deployed. Even since the debate on 31st October we assess that another nine missiles are operationally deployed, compared with the figures I gave the House on that occasion.

In contrast, I would remind the House that last month NATO Defence Ministers agreed to the most radical reduction in the number of nuclear warheads deployed in Europe that has ever taken place.

The effect of this decision will be to reduce the number of NATO nuclear warheads in Europe to their lowest level in 20 years, even if full deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles takes place. The number of these warheads will be reduced by one third from their December 1979 level, and the number of warheads for shorter-range systems will be reduced by one half.

The Government hopes that the Soviet Union will now respond positively to the radical proposals put forward by NATO for arms control.

That is our foremost hope.

But let me make it clear that this Government will remain resolute in its commitment to take those steps which are essential for the defence of this country and our allies.

CONFIDENTIAL

CCVTF



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone 01 ~~XXXX XXXX~~ 218 2111/3

MO 11/2/2

14th November 1983

Dear Roger.

DELIVERY OF CRUISE MISSILES TO RAF GREENHAM COMMON

As you know the first cruise missiles were delivered to RAF Greenham Common this morning. The Defence Secretary intends to inform the House this afternoon. I attach a draft statement which has been approved by Mr Heseltine. If you have any comments on the draft, I should be most grateful to have these if possible by 1130 this morning by telephone please.

I am copying this letter to John Coles, No 10, and Richard Hatfield, Cabinet Office.

Yours ever,

Richard Mottram

(R C MOTTRAM)

R Bone Esq

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
ON CRUISE MISSILE DELIVERIES

With permission, Mr Speaker, I should like to make a statement about preparations for the operational deployment of cruise missiles in the United Kingdom.

On 31st October, this House reaffirmed by a majority of 144 its support for the NATO 1979 twin track decision on intermediate range nuclear forces, its backing for the West's efforts to achieve a balanced and verifiable agreement at the Geneva negotiations, and confirmed that in the absence of agreement on the zero option cruise missiles must be operationally deployed in the United Kingdom at the end of 1983.

In the course of that debate, I indicated that the initial supporting equipment for the first flight of cruise missiles had been arriving at RAF Greenham Common for some time, that further equipment, including the transporter-erector-launchers, would be arriving shortly, and that I would make a further statement when the missiles themselves arrived in this country. In honouring that commitment I should inform the House that, earlier today, the first cruise missiles were delivered by air to RAF Greenham Common.

The delivery of the missiles is wholly consistent with the Alliance decision, to achieve an initial operational capability by the end of 1983 in the absence of agreement on the zero option.

CONFIDENTIAL

Much work remains to be done - including the final assembly and testing of equipments and personnel training - before the missiles are operational.

I wish to emphasise that these continuing preparations for operational deployment do not in any way lessen NATO's commitment to negotiations or reduce the desire of the Alliance to reach agreement on arms control with the Soviet Union. The NATO deployment is planned to be completed over a 5-year period; it can be halted, modified or reversed at any time if results in Geneva warrant it.

But the fact remains that since the 1979 decision the Soviet Union has almost trebled - from 126 to 360 - the number of SS20 missiles it has deployed. Even since the debate on 31st October another nine missiles have been added to the figures I gave the House on that occasion.

In contrast, I would remind the House that last month NATO Defence Ministers agreed to the most radical reduction in the number of nuclear warheads deployed in Europe that has ever taken place.

The effect of this decision will be to reduce the number of nuclear warheads in Europe to their lowest level in 20 years, even if full deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles takes place.

The number of warheads in Europe will be reduced by one third from their December 1979 level, and the number of warheads for shorter-range systems will be reduced by one half.

CONFIDENTIAL

The Government sincerely hopes that the Soviet Union will now respond positively to the radical proposals put forward by NATO for arms control and for reducing the nuclear stockpile in Europe.