

SUBJECT

SECRET

PRIME MINISTER'S 30

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 192^A/83

Dear Margaret,

19/11/83

As you know, the Soviet Union has recently suggested in Geneva that, if the US were to propose equal reductions of 572 on each side, the Soviet Union would accept such a proposal. Now the Soviet Union has begun saying that the US negotiator, rather than their own, put forward these suggestions. This is a total fabrication.

The fact is that the Soviet negotiator approached Ambassador Nitze on instructions last Sunday with the suggestion that the US advance a proposal for "Equal Reductions" which would result in zero US deployments while leaving about 120 SS-20 missiles targetted on Europe. Ambassador Nitze, although agreeing to forward Ambassador Kvitsinsky's suggestions to Washington, made clear that he thought it certain Washington would not convert a Soviet proposal into a US proposal.

Indeed, the Soviet suggestions are unacceptable. They do not change the consistent Soviet demand for a monopoly in longer-range land-based INF missiles. Under the proposals, the Soviet Union would retain at least 360 warheads targetted on Europe and an approximately equal number targetted on Asia. The US would have zero.

Also, although the Soviets have indicated that under their suggestion no specific mention would be made of British and French systems, in fact they are seeking compensation. First, they have demanded de facto compensation in the form of their monopoly of 360 warheads targetted on Europe. Second, they are seeking to include UK and French systems - also in some other arms control forum.

I greatly appreciate and value the close consultations which have developed within the Alliance in handling the INF issue. The Alliance has demonstrated a truly extraordinary depth of understanding and cohesion in difficult circumstances. As you know, I believe that the latest proposals we have advanced provide a sound basis for an agreement. The solidarity for the Alliance has provided the essential foundation for the negotiating effort from the beginning. On this basis, we are continuing our search for an equitable and verifiable outcome in Geneva.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ron

US Declassified

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Sincerely,

/s/

Ron

SECRET



Four

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 November 1983

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 19 November enclosing a message from President Reagan about INF.

A. J. COLES

His Excellency Mr. Charles H. Price, II

SECRET

Tom



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 November 1983

INF

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister received from President Reagan on 19 November.

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

A. J. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RB

SECRET

Rec'd
19/11

Prime Minister
I have copied
this to the foreign office.

Wnty Clerk
19/11



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

LONDON
November 19, 1983

Dear Prime Minister:

I have been asked to forward to you the enclosed message from President Reagan regarding INF.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Price, II
Ambassador

Enclosure:

SECRET

CONQUEROR

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

Rec'd
11/19/83

Yame Minis
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this to the foreign office

Duty Clerk
11/19/83

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

LONDON
November 19, 1983

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Enclosure:

SECRET

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