

Prime Minister.

Craxi said in Lisbon (see X below)  
that if INF negotiations resumed,  
deployments should be suspended.

A.J.C. 10/5.

SECRET

17972 - 1

37

OO WASHINGTON

GRS 555

SECRET

FM FCO 091408Z MAY 84

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 866 OF 9 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE ROME

INFO PRIORITY LISBON, UKDEL NATO, THE HAGUE, PARIS, BONN

MIPT : ITALY/INF

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SHULTZ'S MESSAGE TO ME:

'DEAR GEOFFREY:

AS YOU MAY KNOW, PRIME MINISTER CRAXI REPORTEDLY STATED PUBLICLY DURING HIS VISIT THIS WEEK TO LISBON THAT HE COULD ENVISION A MORATORIUM IN NATO INF DEPLOYMENTS SHOULD THE SOVIETS BE WILLING TO RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE IN GENEVA, AND THAT ITALY HOPED TO MAKE SUCH A PROPOSAL THE CENTREPIECE OF AN ARMS CONTROL INITIATIVE AT THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING THIS MONTH IN WASHINGTON.

I KNOW YOU SHARE MY VIEW THAT A MORATORIUM IS DETRIMENTAL TO ALLIED SECURITY AND INCONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLE IN THE 1979 DUAL-TRACK DECISION THAT ONLY A CONCRETE NEGOTIATING RESULT WILL CAUSE NATO TO REEXAMINE ITS DEPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS. IN THE CURRENT SITUATION, IT WOULD ONLY REWARD THE SOVIETS FOR THEIR WALKOUT AND CONTINUING BOYCOTT OF THE INF NEGOTIATIONS, WOULD FREEZE NATO AT AN ENORMOUS DISADVANTAGE IN INF MISSILE SYSTEMS, AND CREATE EVERY INCENTIVE FOR THE SOVIETS TO STRING THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS ALONG RATHER THAN REACH AN AGREEMENT. IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED AT THE LACK OF CONSULTATIONS AND AT THE APPARENT DISREGARD, HOWEVER INADVERTENT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN, FOR THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT MAY CAUSE YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THOSE OF THE OTHER INF BASING COUNTRIES. IT IS ESPECIALLY UNTIMELY GIVEN THE DELICATE SITUATION IN THE NETHERLANDS AND CAN ONLY COMPLICATE THE EFFORT TO ACHIEVE A POSITIVE DECISION THERE.

1

SECRET

SECRET

17972 - 1

I HAVE WRITTEN TO FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREOTTI TO EXPRESS MY DISMAY AND DISAPPOINTMENT AT THIS DEVELOPMENT AND AT THE LACK OF CONSULTATIONS. OUR EFFORTS WOULD BE STRENGTHENED IF YOUR GOVERNMENT ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT A DEPLOYMENT MORATORIUM IS UNACCEPTABLE IN SUBSTANCE, AND THAT AN ITALIAN INITIATIVE AT THE WASHINGTON MEETING COULD ONLY DAMAGE THE MEETING'S IMPORTANCE AS A DEMONSTRATION OF ALLIED UNITY AND RESOLVE.

WE WILL, OF COURSE, WANT TO CONSULT CLOSELY ON HOW BEST TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE FROM THIS SITUATION, AND TO GET THE ITALIANS OUT OF THE HOLE THEY HAVE PUT THEMSELVES IN. I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY THOUGHTS YOU WOULD HAVE IN THIS REGARD. SINCERELY,  
GEORGE P SHULTZ'

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MY REPLY:

'DEAR GEORGE,

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME HAVE YOUR REACTIONS TO PRIME MINISTER CRAXI'S STATEMENTS, DURING HIS VISIT TO LISBON LAST WEEK, ABOUT INF. LIKE YOU, WE HAD NO PRIOR INDICATION OF HIS THINKING.

I SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT HIS REMARKS WERE UNFORTUNATE AND UNHELPFUL AND I AM TAKING STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE ITALIANS ARE FULLY AWARE OF OUR CONCERN.

THE REPORTS WHICH WE HAVE HAD FROM ROME INDICATE THAT THE ITALIANS HAVE NOT YET FINALLY DECIDED TO TABLE THEIR CONCEPT OF A MORATORIUM ON INF DEPLOYMENT, DURING A RESUME NEGOTIATION, AT THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON LATER THIS MONTH. IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT THEY MAY HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS IN THE LIGHT OF REACTIONS FROM THEIR ALLIES IN THE MEANTIME. THE MEETING OF THE SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP IN BRUSSELS ON 15 MAY WILL GIVE ALL OF US A TIMELY OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN AND I SHALL ENSURE THAT THE UK POSITION IS SPELT OUT VERY CLEARLY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THIS AND OTHER ISSUES WITH YOU WHEN WE MEET IN WASHINGTON. WITH BEST WISHES, GEOFFREY'

HOWE

LIMITED  
DEFENCE DEPT  
ACDD  
EED  
SOV DEPT  
NAD  
WED  
NEWS D

PS  
PS/LADY YOUNG  
PS/MR LUCE  
PS/PUS  
SIR J BULLARD  
MR WRIGHT  
MR JENKINS  
MR CARTLEDGE

ADDITIONAL DISTN.  
START

COPIES TO:  
MR COLES NO 10 DOWNING STREET

<sup>2</sup>  
SECRET