SUBJECT.
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OO WASHINGTON
GRS 253
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FM FCO 241200Z NOV 84
TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2013 OF 24 NOVEMBER
INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO, MOSCOW
SAVING TO OTHER NATO POSTS
ARMS CONTROL: REPLY TO PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM PRIME MINISTER

1. PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S MESSAGE OF 22 NOVEMBER (MY TELNO 1996 NOT TO ALL).

2. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE DEAR RON, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 22 NOVEMBER, DELIVERED TO ME BY CHARLIE PRICE.

I AM DELIGHTED TO HEAR THAT YOUR EFFORTS TO RESUME A SERIOUS ARMS CONTROL DIALOGUE WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAVE MET WITH A POSITIVE RESPONSE AND THAT GEORGE SHULTZ AND GROMYKO HAVE AGREED TO MEET IN GENEVA ON 7/8 JANUARY. THIS SHOWS THAT PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE WILL IN THE END PAY DIVIDENDS. I AM PARTICULARLY GLAD THAT YOU ENVISAGE DISCUSSING THE WHOLE RANGE OF ARMS CONTROL TOPICS. AS YOU IMPLY, STRATEGIC AND INTERMEDIATE RANGE NUCLEAR SYSTEMS AND OUTER SPACE ARE OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE. BUT AS I MENTIONED TO GEORGE SHULTZ RECENTLY IN DELHI, I BELIEVE THAT CHEMICAL WEAPONS ARE SCARCELY LESS SO. I UNDERSTAND FROM OLIVER WRIGHT THAT THESE WOULD ALSO BE A CANDIDATE FOR SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER YOUR UMBRELLA CONCEPT, ALONG WITH CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE AND CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES.

I AM SURE YOU ARE RIGHT NOT TO UNDER-ESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTIES AHEAD. BUT YOU KNOW YOU HAVE OUR STRONG SUPPORT AS THESE PROSPECTS OPEN UP. I LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER DISCUSSION OF ALL THIS AT OUR MEETING ON 22 DECEMBER. YOURS SINCERELY, MARGARET UNQUOTE.

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From the Private Secretary

23 November 1984

Thank you for your letter of 23 November enclosing a draft reply from the Prime Minister to President Reagan's message about the US/Soviet agreement to enter into new negotiations on arms control.

The Prime Minister is content with the draft and I should be grateful if it could be telegraphed to Washington for delivery by HM Ambassador.

(Charles Powell)

Len Appleyard Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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DRAFT REPLY TO PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM PRIME MINISTER

Dear Ron,

Thank you very much for your message of 22 November, delivered to me yesterday by Charlie Price.

I am delighted to hear that your efforts to resume a serious arms control dialogue with the Soviet Union have met with a positive response and that George Shultz and Gromyko have agreed to meet in Geneva on 7/8 January. This shows that patience and persistence will in the end pay dividends. I am particularly glad that you envisage discussing the whole range of arms control topics. As you imply, strategic and intermediate range nuclear systems and outer space are of particular importance. But as I mentioned to George Shultz recently in Delhi, I believe that chemical weapons are scarcely less so. I understand from Oliver Wright that these would also be a candidate for separate negotiations under your umbrella concept, along with conventional forces in Europe and confidence-building measures.

I am sure you are right not to under-estimate the difficulties ahead. But you know you have our strong support as these prospects open up. I look forward to further discussion of all this at our meeting on 22 December.

Yours sincerely,
Margaret

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 November 1984

Dear Charles,

Message from President Reagan to the Prime Minister

I enclose a draft reply to President Reagan for your consideration.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DSR 11C

DRAFT REPLY TO PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM PRIME MINISTER

Thank you very much for your message of 22 November, delivered to me yesterday by Charlie Price.

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Bruce MB