

SUBJECT

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T10/84.....

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CC Master
OPS

January 14, 1984

Dear Margaret:

When you and I met at the end of September, we had a useful talk on how to deal with the Soviet Union over the longer term. I greatly value the advice and counsel you shared with me. At that time, the Korean Air Lines tragedy was very much on our minds. With Moscow's unfortunate decision to suspend the major arms control negotiations, East-West relations have entered an even more difficult period.

Against this background, I have decided that it is important to present to the American people and to governments and publics throughout the world a comprehensive statement of my approach to the key element in East-West relations -- the U.S.-Soviet relationship. I will do this in a major address from the East Room at the White House on Monday, January 16.

My address will reaffirm our willingness to pursue a constructive and realistic dialogue with the Soviet Union aimed at building a more positive and stable long-term relationship. I will call upon the Soviets to make a comparable and substantive response. While I will not be announcing any specific new initiatives, I will be setting forth a framework for future U.S.-Soviet relations.

Given our close relationship and the special significance that I attach to this statement of U.S. policy, I want to share the text with you beforehand. I hope you will agree that it meets our common objectives of setting a positive tone both for the opening of the CDE meeting in Stockholm and for George Shultz's bilateral

meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko. I am particularly pleased that George will have an opportunity to give you a personal preview before his meetings in Stockholm.

With warm regards,

Ron

The Right Honorable
Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister
London