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TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2531 OF 20 DECEMBER 1984

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON

FOLLOWING FOR MR. POWELL (PS/PRIME MINISTER) FROM PRIVATE OFFICE

LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER FROM DR DAVID OWEN MP ABOUT SDI AND COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB)

1. THE PRIME MINISTER WILL WISH TO KNOW THAT DR OWEN WROTE TO HER ON 17 DECEMBER ABOUT SDI AND CTB. THE LETTER URGES THE PRIME MINISTER TO QUOTE EXPRESS TO PRESIDENT REAGAN ... THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S CLEAR OPPOSITION TO THE SDI UNQUOTE. IT LISTS A NUMBER OF SDP OBJECTIONS TO THE SDI ON STRATEGIC, POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL GROUNDS (THESE ARE COVERED IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S BRIEFING FOR HER MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT) AND CALLS FOR A MORATORIUM ON US ASAT TESTING UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1985.
2. THE LETTER GOES ON TO URGE THE PRIME MINISTER TO EXPLORE WITH THE PRESIDENT THE PROPOSAL MADE IN HIS SEPTEMBER UN SPEECH FOR AN EXCHANGE OF NUCLEAR TEST SITE OBSERVERS, WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING PROGRESS TOWARDS ADEQUATE VERIFICATION OF A CTB.
3. THE DEPARTMENT WILL SUBMIT A DRAFT REPLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE TALKS AT CAMP DAVID.

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A. Ps/Prime Minister

D. Nil

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