

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 25A/85

Unofficial translation

Esteemed Mrs. Prime Minister,

Thank you for your message of January 4. We value an exchange of views with you and we see its significance in the fact that it should broaden the mutual understanding in the approach to the solution of the key international problems. This, obviously, coincides with your intention.

Today, in our view, efforts of all the states should be directed at the working out of effective measures to prevent the arms race in space and stop it on Earth. It is precisely this objective that the forthcoming Soviet-American talks on the complex of questions related to the space and nuclear weapons, both strategic and medium-range, should serve.

We have agreed with the USA that all these questions will be considered and solved in their interrelationship. At that we are convinced that prevention of the arms race in space is of special significance. You, Mrs. Prime Minister, have also expressed more than once serious concern about the danger of the deployment of weapons in space and called for holding the talks aimed at the prevention of such a dangerous course of events.

In this connection I would like to draw your attention to the following. We are very alerted by arguments going around in the West about indisputable admissibility of scientific and research work in the field of space weapons regardless of the course of Soviet-American talks. You yourself recognize that it is impossible to define that critical moment when scientific research turns into the phase of the construction and deployment of weapon systems. Why should one then lead things to the development of space weapons - and the corresponding research activities are, in the end,

aimed at this, - if the objective is to prevent the arms race in space? It should be openly said that the reliance on the creation of space weapons conflicts with the objectives of Soviet-American talks, agreed in Geneva, and threatens to undermine them.

And on the contrary, progress in the prevention of the militarization of space would open up possibilities to solve productively the questions of the limitation of nuclear arms and would strengthen the international stability and security. Immutable at that is the strict compliance with the principle of equality and equal security, the account of all factors which determine the strategic situation in Europe and in the world as a whole.

Possibilities which open up now in curbing the arms race and removing the threat of nuclear war cannot be missed. The Soviet Union will do all it can to achieve these objectives. We hope that the Government of Great Britain will also act in this direction. It would, undoubtedly, contribute to the development of constructive co-operation between our countries both in the solution of international problems and in the field of bilateral relations.

With respect,

(signed) K.CHERNENKO

12th February, 1985.

[Removes in
December 10
1973]

Уважаемая г-жа Премьер-Министр,

благодарю Вас за послание от 4 января. Мы ценим обмен мнениями с Вами, видим его смысл в том, чтобы расширять взаимопонимание в подходе к решению узловых международных проблем. Это, очевидно, совпадает с Вашим намерением.

Сейчас, по нашему мнению, усилия всех государств необходимо направить на то, чтобы добиться выработки эффективных мер по предотвращению гонки вооружений в космосе и ее прекращению на Земле. Именно этой цели должны служить предстоящие советско-американские переговоры по комплексу вопросов, касающихся космических и ядерных вооружений - как стратегических, так и средней дальности.

Мы договорились с США, что все эти вопросы будут рассматриваться и решаться во взаимосвязи. При этом мы убеждены, что особое значение имеет предотвращение гонки вооружений в космосе. Вы, г-жа Премьер-Министр, также неоднократно выражали серьезную озабоченность по поводу угрозы размещения оружия в космосе, призывали провести переговоры с целью недопущения такого опасного развития событий.

В этой связи хотел бы привлечь Ваше внимание к следующему. Нас оченьстораживают ведущиеся на Западе разговоры о безусловной допустимости научно-исследовательских работ в области космических вооружений независимо от хода советско-американских переговоров. Вы сами признаете, что невозможно определить тот критический момент, когда научные исследования переходят в стадию создания и развертывания систем оружия. Зачем же вести дело к разработке космического оружия - а ведь в конечном счете на это нацелена соответствующая исследовательская деятельность, - если задачей является предотвращение гонки вооружений в космосе? Нужно прямо сказать, что ставка на создание космического оружия противоречит согласованным в Женеве целям советско-американских переговоров, грозит их подрывом.

И наоборот, продвижение в деле предотвращения милитаризации космоса открыло бы возможность продуктивно решать вопросы ограничения ядерных вооружений, укрепляло бы международную стабильность и безопасность. Непременным при этом является строгое соблюдение принципа равенства и одинаковой безопасности, учет всех факторов, определяющих стратегическую ситуацию в Европе и в мире в целом.

Возможности, которые открываются сейчас в деле обуздания гонки вооружений, устранения угрозы ядерной войны, нельзя упустить. Советский Союз будет делать все от него зависящее для достижения этих целей. Надеемся, что правительство Великобритании будет действовать в том же направлении. Это, несомненно, способствовало бы развитию конструктивного сотрудничества между нашими странами как в решении международных проблем, так и в области двусторонних отношений.

С уважением

К. ЧЕРНЕНКО

12 февраля 1985 года



*Already
Hd.*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 February, 1985

*CP
Mr Powell of*

Dear David,

Soviet Message for the Prime Minister

I enclose a slightly revised English translation of the message from President Chernenko to the Prime Minister which was delivered by the Soviet Ambassador on 18 February.

The revisions do not affect the substance of the message and we do not suggest that they need to be sent to the Prime Minister in Washington. But if you are keeping a copy of the original for your records you might also like to have a translation which reflects the Russian text as accurately as possibly.

*Yours ever,
Peter Ricketts*

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

David Barclay Esq
10 Downing Street

Translation

Dear Madame Prime Minister

Thank you for your message of January 4. We value an exchange of views with you and we see its significance as lying in the broadening of mutual understanding in approaching the solution of key international problems. This, evidently, coincides with your intention.

Today, in our view, the efforts of all states should be directed at seeking the working out of effective measures to prevent the arms race in space and to stop it on Earth. It is precisely this objective that the forthcoming Soviet-American talks on a complex of questions related to space and nuclear weapons, both strategic and medium-range, should serve.

We have agreed with the USA that all of these questions will be considered and decided in their interrelationship. In this connection we are convinced that prevention of the arms race in space is of special significance. You, Madame Prime Minister, have also more than once expressed serious concern about the danger of the deployment of weapons in space and you have called for the holding of negotiations aimed at preventing such a dangerous course of events.

In this connection I would like to draw your attention to the following. We are put very much on our guard by talk in the West about the undoubted permissibility of research work in the field of space weapons regardless of the course of Soviet-American negotiations. You yourself recognize that it is impossible to determine that critical moment when scientific research passes over into the phase of construction and deployment of weapon systems. Why proceed towards the development of space weapons - for in the final analysis that is what the relevant research work is aimed at doing, - if the objective is to prevent the arms race in space? One must state openly that reliance on the creation of space

weapons contradicts the objectives of the Soviet-American negotiations agreed in Geneva, and threatens to undermine them.

And conversely, progress in the prevention of the militarization of space would open up the possibility of productively resolving questions concerning the limitation of nuclear armaments and would strengthen international stability and security. An indispensable requirement here is strict compliance with the principle of equality and equal security and the taking into account of all factors which determine the strategic situation in Europe and in the world as a whole.

The possibilities which are now opening up for curbing the arms race and removing the threat of nuclear war must not be missed. The Soviet Union will do all it can to achieve these objectives. We hope that the Government of Great Britain will act in this direction. That would undoubtedly facilitate the development of constructive co-operation between our countries both in the solution of international problems and in the field of bilateral relations.

With respect,

(signed) K. CHERNENKO

12 February 1985

Arms Control ?



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