



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1

Telephone 01-930 7022

Questions
CF file

PQ 5718

13th November 1986

CDP, 5/ki

Dear Charles,

PQ BY MR BEITH, 4TH NOVEMBER

It has come to light that, owing to a confusion here, we failed to take account of amendments you had suggested to the answer to Mr Beith's question last Tuesday "to ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he is satisfied that the defence of the United Kingdom would be fully safeguarded if the reductions in nuclear weapons proposed at the Reykjavik summit were all implemented". As published in Hansard, column 428, the answer reads: "The Government fully endorse the bold attempt of the President of the United States to seek far-reaching arms control agreements with the Soviet Union. We have also made it clear that there is obviously a direct relation between major reductions in strategic nuclear forces and conventional forces and it is essential that the two are seen together. Such reduction must also go hand in hand with an improvement of East-West relations generally". You had, I understand, suggested a slightly softer formulation for the first sentence.

I am very sorry that this happened. The office were wrestling with a number of alternative texts not just for this PQ but for many others on Top Day and I am afraid there was a slip up in the office.

Yours sincerely,
John Howe

(J F HOWE)

Charles Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



CF - for policy of
the PI NR 511
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MINISTER OF STATE FOR
THE ARMED FORCES

D/MIN(AF)/JS/1/1

4 November 1986

CDP
4/Ki

Dear Charles

... I attach for information a copy of the answer Mr Stanley intends to give to Alan Beith MP today in reply to a Question on the Reykjavik summit.

Yours sincerely
C A Gordon

C A GORDON
Assistant Private
Secretary

Charles Powell Esq
No 10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 1986

MR A J BEITH (LIBERAL)(BERWICK UPON TWEED)

* Mr Beith

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he is satisfied that the defence of the United Kingdom would be fully safeguarded if the reductions in nuclear weapons proposed at the Reykjavik summit were all implemented.

A N S W E R

(Mr Stanley)

The Government ^{support} fully endorses the bold attempt of the ^{Rosen's} President of the United States to ^{effort} seek ^{reach} far-reaching arms control agreements with the Soviet Union. We have also made clear that there is ^{may be} ~~obviously~~ a direct relation between major reductions in strategic nuclear forces and conventional forces and it is essential that the two are seen together. Such reductions must also go ^{in step} ~~hand in hand~~ with an improvement of East-West relations generally.

and welcome
the progress made
at Reykjavik



[Faint, illegible handwritten text]