

FM JA
NO SECOND
OPINIONPRIME MINISTER

cc: Mr. Sherbourne

David Hart has sent you the attached note via Stephen following his visit to Washington.

As always it contains a lot of interest. But you have to remember that it all comes from a small and totally dedicated pro-SDI group in Washington.

As a result his report focusses almost exclusively on SDI and has nothing to say about the immediate problem which you face, namely the proposal to eliminate ballistic missiles in ten years.

I do not see the logic of arguing that an INF deal would strengthen Kinnock. It would be a justification of your policy of strength.

Where I think David is right (and the FCO wrong) is in urging you not to make a fuss about exceeding SALT II limits.

A Global Security Guarantee is a very long way down the road, and not relevant to your talks with the President now.

David Hart has told Stephen that he wants to see you before you go to Washington. I think this would be a mistake:

- (a) because he is not focussed on the real issues of your Camp David meeting:
- (b) because of the risk that he would subsequently pass messages to Washington purporting to represent your views - which would cross wires.

Agree to thank him for his useful paper but say that you cannot see him at present?

Charles Powell

10 November 1986