

Mr Goulden, Defence Dept

SALT

As I explained to you on the telephone, the draft press line you proposed on SALT was put to No 10 immediately, in view of the time factor.

The Prime Minister said that she would like our response to be somewhat warmer:

"We are glad the progress on SALT II has gone far enough to permit the long-awaited summit meeting to take place, and we welcome the settlement of the major outstanding issues. The Government will of course study the final text of the agreement when it is available, and its implications."

[Changes underlined.]

I gather that the Prime Minister commented that, whatever our private reservations about SALT, we should avoid displaying these publicly.

G G H Walden

(G G H Walden)

9 May 1979

cc:- PS/Mr Hurd
PS/PUS
Sir A Duff
Mr Moberly
Mr Gillmore
Mr Melhuish
Mr Thomas, News Dept