

SUBJECT *Defence*
**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE**
SERIAL No. T148/80

886750A BKBN D FSNR.: 1629

23.7.1980

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR

T148/80

(Already copied to F.R.G. Post (2))

THE RT. HON. MARGRET THATCHER, M.P.,
PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND,
LONDON

Prime Minister

mt AS

-- GEHEIM MATLICH GEHEIMGEHALTEN --

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT INFORMATION ABOUT THE DECISION TO MODERNIZE THE BRITISH POLARIS. ALTHOUGH THIS IS A PURELY NATIONAL AFFAIR BETWEEN THE NUCLEAR POWERS INVOLVED, THE DECISION NEVERTHELESS HAS IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ALLIANCE AND THE GLOBAL BALANCE OF FORCES.

I WELCOME THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE UNITED KINGDOM BECAUSE THE MODERNIZATION OF THE BRITISH NUCLEAR POTENTIAL WILL CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS MAINTAINING THE BALANCE OF FORCES.

I ALS PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE TO FIND A SOLUTION WHICH, ON THE ONE HAND, MEETS THE TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMING CENTURY AND, ON THE OTHER, KEEPS WITHIN AN ECONOMIC SCOPE THAT WILL PREVENT ANY WEAKENING OF THE CONVENTIONAL FORCES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND HENCE OF THE ALLIANCE. I BELIEVE THEREFORE THAT THE RESOLVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHICH HAS THUS BEEN REAFFIRMED, TO STRENGTHEN ITS CONVENTIONAL FORCES, INCLUDING THE 3 PER CENT REAL ANNUAL INCREASE IN DEFENCE SPENDING, CONSTITUTES A MOST IMPORTANT SIGNAL.

WITH WARM REGARDS,
YOURS SINCERELY,
(SGD.) HELMUT SCHMIDT+++

XBT QSL