

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL FILE
SERIAL No. T38183

CAB/WH001/24

OO WHITEHOUSE
GR 500A

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SECRET

FROM CABINET OFFICE LONDON 241040Z MAR 83
TO IMMEDIATE THE WHITE HOUSE
TELEGRAM NUMBER MISC 092 OF 24 MARCH 1983

FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM PRIME MINISTER.

+DEAR RON,

I WAS VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 23 MARCH ON THE INF NEGOTIATIONS. I WELCOME PARTICULARLY THE CLOSE CONSULTATION BETWEEN US WHICH HAS MARKED OUR EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT PROGRESS IN GENEVA.

YOUR CONCLUSIONS ARE VERY SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH I HAD REACHED. I THEREFORE WELCOME YOUR DECISION TO INSTRUCT AMBASSADOR NITZE TO PUT A CONCRETE PROPOSAL TO THE SOVIET NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA BEFORE THE END OF THE CURRENT ROUND. I AM SURE THAT THIS WILL HAVE A FAVOURABLE IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION IN THE WEST.

AS YOU KNOW, I SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT THE ZERO-ZERO OUTCOME IS THE BEST SOLUTION. IT IS CLEAR THAT IN THE IMMEDIATE TERM THIS IS NOT ACHIEVABLE, BUT IN MY VIEW, WE SHOULD RETAIN IT AS A LONGER TERM OBJECTIVE. I ALSO WELCOME YOUR PROPOSAL TO CALL A MEETING OF SCG PRINCIPALS FOR CONSULTATION IN BRUSSELS ON 25 MARCH, AND I STRONGLY ENDORSE YOUR IDEA OF CALLING FOR A SHORTER RECESS. INDEED, THERE MAY BE ADVANTAGE IN PROPOSING A RESUMPTION EVEN EARLIER THAN YOU SUGGEST, SAY TOWARDS THE END OF APRIL.

YOU ASKED FOR MY VIEWS ABOUT WHETHER THE NEW INITIATIVE SHOULD CONTAIN SPECIFIC NUMBERS. I BELIEVE THERE IS MUCH TO BE SAID FOR INSTRUCTING AMBASSADOR NITZE TO PUT FORWARD A PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A SPECIFIC NUMBER OF WARHEADS SET AT A FIGURE OF 300 ON EACH SIDE. BUT I LEAVE THIS TO YOUR JUDGEMENT. YOU AND YOUR ADVISERS WILL HAVE THE FEEL OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

MAY I ADD ONE FURTHER THOUGHT? YOU PROPOSE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THIS ISSUE ON 31 MARCH. THIS WILL MEAN THAT REPORTS IN THE MEDIA IN EUROPE CAN BE EXPECTED ON THE MORNING OF GOOD FRIDAY, 1 APRIL. IN THE CASE OF THE UK, THERE ARE NO NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS ON GOOD FRIDAY. WOULD YOU THEREFORE CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING FORWARD YOUR SPEECH BY 24 HOURS? WE ALL HAVE AN INTEREST IN ENSURING THAT YOUR STATEMENT IS GIVEN THE WIDEST POSSIBLE PUBLICITY. THIS WILL ALSO HELP TO PRE-EMPT SOME OF THE IMPACT OF EASTER PEACE MOVEMENT DEMONSTRATIONS BOTH HERE AND ELSEWHERE.

WITH BEST WISHES,

MARGARET+

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SENT 24/1058Z WH

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DE WHITEHOUSE AND QSL UR MSG AT 0601LOCAL.

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