



cebs

PM/83/57

PRIME MINISTER

1. My Department have been giving thought to the problems of nuclear proliferation, with particular reference to our strategy for the 1985 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, preparations for which will begin in earnest this Autumn.

2. Recent efforts in the non-proliferation field have concentrated on the improvement of technical barriers to proliferation. These have included our own initiative on improving those areas of the nuclear export control "trigger list" relating to centrifuge enrichment, and the new US proposal on comprehensive safeguards, about which President Reagan wrote to you in April. Efforts in this field are, and will continue to be, highly important. But there is a need also to generate a wider and stronger political commitment to the NPT, particularly among the non-aligned and developing / countries. The enclosed paper sets out some ideas on how this might be achieved.

3. Provided that you and other recipients of this minute see no objection, I intend to ask our representatives in other members of the European Community, the United States, Canada and Australia to deliver copies of the paper to local Governments, with a request that they should study and comment on it. In the light of their comments, we can then decide what further action to take with other interested parties, including the Soviet Union and moderate countries in the developing world.

*I see
no
objection*

4. I am sending

CONFIDENTIAL



4. I am sending copies of this minute and enclosure to other members of the OD Committee and to the Secretary of State for Energy and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'G. Howe', written in a cursive style.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
25 July 1983

CONFIDENTIAL