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Subject

USA: US Foreign Policy/European Relations
March 1981

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T118A/83

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
LONDON

September 6, 1983

Dear Prime Minister:

I have been asked to deliver the attached message to you from President Reagan, which was received at the Embassy over the weekend.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Streator
for Edward J. Streator
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure

SECRET

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

10/1/83

S E C R E T

August 19, 1983

Dear Margaret,

On March 31st, I wrote to you about comprehensive safeguards, and I appreciate your government's expression of support for this principle. I had hoped to discuss this matter in some detail at our Williamsburg meeting, but as you know the agenda included other issues, both complicated and pressing, that required our urgent attention.

As I indicated earlier, I believe that we must take every possible step to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons. This is a matter of critical national security concern that we share. If nuclear weapons spread to additional regions, the delicate balance of regional stability can be upset, the danger of conflict will grow, security burdens will increase, and even peaceful nuclear cooperation will be jeopardized.

Unsafeguarded nuclear activities manifestly are a source of concern, wherever they may exist. Even where these activities are not intended to serve the purpose of explosives development, they inevitably generate suspicion. It was this concern which led me to suggest agreement now by the major nuclear suppliers to require comprehensive safeguards as a condition of significant new nuclear supply commitments.

Agreed nuclear rules of trade, including stronger safeguards as a condition of supply, are needed also if we are to ensure that legitimate competition for nuclear trade does not lead to the use of non-proliferation conditions as a bargaining factor in pursuit of sales. The result could only be an unraveling of the non-proliferation regime damaging to us all.

The emergence of new suppliers adds urgency to the need for new cooperative action. We must find the way to convince these countries to adhere to sound

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norms for their own participation in international nuclear commerce. But if we are to have any chance of success, we must agree now on stronger safeguards and guidelines for nuclear trade, and be prepared to stand by them. As we have agreed, our countries have a shared responsibility in this area. I look forward to working with you to strengthen the framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation within a sound and effective safeguards regime. I suggest an early meeting of our representatives and those of the other major supplier countries (including the Soviet Union) to develop concrete proposals for advancing our common goal. We look forward to hearing your views.

Margaret, this is an important priority for me, for which I would deeply appreciate your personal support. I hope to be in touch with you by telephone on this matter closer to the date of the meeting of our representatives. I am convinced that in unifying the nuclear suppliers in support of comprehensive safeguards, we will have achieved a concrete and immediate arms control success.

Sincerely,

* /s/

Ron

S E C R E T

September 6, 1983