

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OPS
u. Master
Subject Defence
INF pt4

GRS 266
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 051045Z NOVEMBER 1983
TO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1046 OF 5 DECEMBER
INFO MOD DS17

Handwritten notes and stamps in a box, including 'CONFIDENTIAL' and '83'.

MIPT: INF: ANDROPOV'S MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY:

'THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 24 NOVEMBER. AS I MADE CLEAR IN MY LETTER TO YOU OF 27 SEPTEMBER, WE CANNOT ACCEPT THAT YOU SHOULD MAINTAIN A MONOPOLY OF INTERMEDIATE RANGE MISSILES IN EUROPE WHILE INSISTING THAT THE AMERICANS SHOULD NOT INSTALL MISSILES OF THIS NATURE. WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO DEPLOY AMERICAN CRUISE MISSILES IN THIS COUNTRY BY THE MASSIVE BUILD-UP OF YOUR SS20 FORCE. WE WOULD HAVE MUCH PREFERRED NOT TO DEPLOY THEM BUT SO FAR IT HAS NOT PROVED POSSIBLE TO REACH THE NECESSARY ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT IN GENEVA.

WE DEEPLY REGRET YOUR DECISION TO SUSPEND THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS ON THESE MISSILES. WE FOR OUR PART WOULD WISH THE INF TALKS IN GENEVA TO BE RESUMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WELCOME THE UNITED STATES' PREPAREDNESS TO DO SO AT ANY TIME. OUR FIRST PRIORITY REMAINS A BALANCED AND VERIFIABLE AGREEMENT TO REDUCE AND IF POSSIBLE ELIMINATE THE MISSILES IN QUESTION, WORLDWIDE. IT REMAINS OUR EARNEST HOPE THAT THE TALKS CAN ACHIEVE SOON THE SORT OF SUCCESS THAT WOULD ENABLE US TO HALT OR, PREFERABLY, REVERSE OUR PLANS FOR DEPLOYING CRUISE MISSILES HERE.

I HAVE MADE CLEAR OUR INTEREST IN A BETTER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EAST AND WEST AND WOULD NATURALLY WISH TO SEE AN IMPROVEMENT IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. PROGRESS IN THE ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS AT GENEVA WOULD OF COURSE BE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THIS.'

HOWE

- LIMITED
- DEF D
- SOV D
- ACD D
- NEWS D
- EED
- WED

PS

- PS/LADY YOUNG
- PS/MR RIFKIND
- PS/MR LUCE
- PS/PUS
- SIR J BULLARD
- MR WRIGHT
- MR CARPLEDGE
- MR JENKINS

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