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*Subject on Foreign
Policy, East/West
Relations, Part 4*

PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

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OTTAWA, K1A 0A2

PERSONAL MESSAGE

November 16, 1983

SERIAL No. *T188 B/83*

My dear Margaret,

In my letter of October 25 I expressed to you my concern about the current unsatisfactory state of East-West relations and international security and stated my intention to work to ameliorate this situation.

In Europe last week I had the opportunity to meet directly with six of our NATO colleagues to discuss this subject (including the most fruitful meeting at 10 Downing Street on November 11) and was heartened by the reception I received. I found that a general consensus existed on the urgent need to re-establish a climate of confidence and to build toward a concerted and sustained dialogue between East and West. Beyond its own intrinsic long-term merits, such a climate and web of contacts could act as a 'safety net' which could well be required in the new year.

My visit to Europe also provided me with a valuable opportunity to discuss in detail some of the more specific proposals mentioned in my earlier letter including the need for: a forum in which global limits might be negotiated for all five nuclear weapons states; further efforts to reaffirm the principles of non-proliferation; and a high level political impetus to be given to the MBFR negotiations and to the forthcoming conference in Stockholm on 'Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe'.

The Rt. Honourable Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, England

My colleague, Allan MacEachen, intends to raise the latter subject at the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting in Brussels on December 8 and I would like to seek your personal support so that a decision can be reached in Brussels on the following two proposals:

- (a) that all NATO members will be represented at a high political level at the inaugural meeting of the Stockholm conference on January 17; and
- (b) that NATO will respond to the latest Eastern proposals on MBFR early in the new year and will be prepared to follow-up its response with a meeting in Vienna at the Foreign Minister level.

I am convinced that agreement on these two proposals would go a considerable way to demonstrating to the East and to our own publics our desire at a political level to make meaningful progress in the arms control field aimed at reducing the current level of tension.

I also wish to inform you that I have written to both the Chinese and Soviet leaderships and shortly will be sending a personal emissary to Peking and Moscow to express my concerns about the current international situation. I will keep you informed of the results of these meetings.

I would welcome any comments you might have and look forward to maintaining close contact on this subject in the months ahead.

Thank you again for finding time in your very busy schedule to receive me last week at short notice and for the superb hospitality you so generously offered.

- I talked to Owen about the idea of a Summit in Stockholm in January, or very soon thereafter. He undertook to think further about it. Do have a word with him if you can.

*All the best,
P. ...*