

Thatcher visit
Dec 1984

President Reagan and I have had a very thorough and extensive discussion of the prospects for arms control negotiations, in the course of which we also naturally touched on the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

I was not surprised to discover that we see matters in very much the same light. I told the President that I had made it absolutely clear to Mr Gorbachev that there was no question of the Soviet Union being able to divide the United Kingdom from the United States on these matters. Wedge-driving is just not on.

~~(which at present is solely a research programme)~~

I told the President of my firm conviction that the SDI programme should go ahead. Research is of course permitted under existing US-Soviet treaties; and we of course know that the Russians already have their research programme, and, in the US view, have already gone beyond research.

We agreed on four points:

- 1) The US, and Western, aim was not to achieve superiority, but to maintain balance, taking account of Soviet developments;
- 2) SDI-related ~~testing and~~ ^[W.M.] deployment would, in view of treaty obligations, have to be a matter for negotiation;
- 3) The overall aim ^{is} ~~should be~~ ^{enhance,} to ~~maintain~~, not undercut, deterrence;
- 4) East-West negotiation should aim to achieve security with reduced levels of offensive systems on both sides. This will be the purpose of the resumed US-Soviet negotiations on arms control, which I warmly welcome.