

Subject

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

Dear Prime Minister:

SERIAL No. T42/79T

Alliance consultations on theater nuclear forces have reached a stage where I believe it would be useful to supplement those consultations with bilateral discussions. Accordingly, I would like to send my personal emissary on these issues, David Aaron, to meet with you or with your appropriate Cabinet members the week of July 16, 1979. He will also consult with the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and Belgium.

Alliance consultations so far reveal a broad consensus that Soviet nuclear efforts, especially such long-range theater nuclear forces as the SS-20, pose a military and political challenge to the Alliance. To meet this challenge, the Alliance needs to modernize by deploying long-range nuclear systems in Europe capable of reaching Soviet territory, and by being prepared to negotiate viable arms control agreements. This would demonstrate Alliance unity, strengthen the spectrum of deterrence, and maintain the perception in both East and West of a firm U.S. and allied commitment to the defense of Europe.

TNF modernization can only be undertaken on the basis of Alliance consensus, and broad participation in this effort. It will require steadfastness and determination to obtain an Alliance consensus on theater nuclear modernization and arms control, which I hope can be achieved by the end of the year. The work of the high level group on TNF modernization and the special group on TNF arms control is putting the Alliance in a position where such decisions are possible.

I am ready to do my part to lead the Alliance to a consensus, but I will need your support. David Aaron will be prepared to discuss with you in detail our thoughts on how a common Alliance TNF modernization and arms control approach can be achieved. In particular, he will be prepared to discuss possible specific roles which the United Kingdom might play in Alliance TNF modernization. The U.S. has under development the weapons system appropriate for TNF modernization and is prepared both to suggest the force mix and to make the systems available. On the basis of his discussions with you, we can move forward with full Alliance consideration leading to concrete TNF modernization and arms control decisions.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Carter

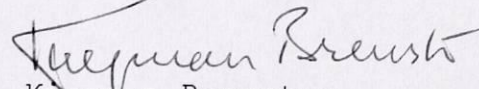
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
LONDON

July 11, 1979

Dear Prime Minister:

I have been asked to deliver the attached message to you from President Carter, which was received at the Embassy this morning.

Sincerely,


Kingman Brewster
Ambassador

Enclosure

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



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 July 1979

I am writing on the Prime Minister's behalf to thank you for your letter of 11 July with which you enclosed a message to her from President Carter about Mr. David Aaron's visit to London next week.

I shall bring President Carter's message to the Prime Minister's attention when she returns from Scotland this evening.

B/C

SOP

His Excellency The Honourable Kingman Brewster

PRIME MINISTER

TNF MODERNISATION

In his message to you below, delivered by the American Ambassador today, President Carter expresses the hope that Mr. David Aaron, whom he is sending on a tour of the relevant NATO capitals to discuss TNF modernisation, can be received either by you or by an appropriate member of the Cabinet.

Mr. Aaron is due to arrive in London on the evening of 16 July and has to leave at 1600 on Tuesday, 17 July. Arrangements have already been made for him to attend a meeting of senior experts, under Mr. Wade-Gery's chairmanship, in the Cabinet Office at 0930 on 17 July; to call on Mr. Hurd in the FCO at 1115; and to meet, over lunch at the American Embassy, Sir John Hunt, Sir Frank Cooper and Sir Antony Duff.

I doubt whether you would wish to engage in a detailed discussion of TNF modernisation with Mr. Aaron at this stage and you would not, in any case, be free to do so on 17 July - you have a meeting of E Committee at 1000, immediately followed by a meeting of E(DL), followed by Questions in the afternoon. However, in view of President Carter's message, would you like to ask Lord Carrington (who has been taking part in the TNF modernisation discussions in NATO) to see Mr. Aaron in place of Mr. Hurd; if Lord Carrington is not free on the morning of 17 July, the Lord Privy Seal could perhaps see Mr. Aaron instead?

As you know, Mr. Pym will be in Washington at the time of Mr. Aaron's visit: if you agree, I shall suggest that Lord ✓ Strathcona might be present when Lord Carrington sees Mr. Aaron, to represent the MOD.

11 July 1979



Defence

cc MOD
CO

JS

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

12 July 1979

B/K 20-7-79

THEATRE NUCLEAR FORCE MODERNISATION: MR. DAVID AARON'S VISIT

As you probably know, Mr. David Aaron of the NSC is coming to London on 16/17 July, as part of a tour of NATO capitals, to discuss TNF modernisation and arms control. Arrangements have already been made for him to attend a meeting in the Cabinet Office, under Mr. Wade-Gery's chairmanship, on 17 July at 0930; to call on Mr. Hurd at 1115; and to meet, over a lunch given by the American Ambassador, Sir John Hunt, Sir Frank Cooper and Sir Antony Duff.

The Prime Minister yesterday received a message from President Carter about Mr. Aaron's visit, describing its purpose and asking whether Mr. Aaron could be received either by the Prime Minister herself or by "appropriate Cabinet members". I enclose a copy of the President's message.

The Prime Minister could not, in fact, receive Mr. Aaron on 17 July in view of her very heavy commitments on that day. It is in any case doubtful whether it would be appropriate for her to do so. Having seen President Carter's message, however, the Prime Minister would be grateful if the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary could agree to see Mr. Aaron himself, in place of the call on Mr. Hurd at present planned. As the Defence Secretary will be in Washington on the day of Mr. Aaron's visit, the Prime Minister suggests that Lord Strathcona might be present when Lord Carrington meets Mr. Aaron. You may also wish to consider whether, in the interests of continuity between this meeting and the subsequent meeting over lunch, Mr. Wade-Gery from the Cabinet Office should also be present.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the American Ambassador to be informed that the Prime Minister is grateful for President Carter's message; that she regrets that it will not be possible for her to see Mr. Aaron herself; but that she has asked Lord Carrington to do so. (If Lord Carrington is

/not in fact

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- 2 -

not in fact free to see Mr. Aaron on 17 July, the Prime Minister hopes that the Lord Privy Seal might be able to do so instead.)

I should also be grateful if consideration could be given, in the light of Mr. Aaron's discussions in London, to a reply to President Carter's message which the Prime Minister might send in due course.

I am sending copies of this letter, and enclosure, to Roger Facer (MOD) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

B. G. CARTLEDGE

Paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.