

SECRET

OPS

Subject Rled on Cuba, Sept 79,
Soviet Ground Forces in.

CABINET OFFICE/WHITE HOUSE 001/02

IMMEDIATE 021845Z OCT 79

FM CABINET OFFICE LONDON
TO WHITE HOUSE

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T107/79T

SECRET

FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER

BEGINS:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 1 OCTOBER ABOUT THE SOVIET
COMBAT BRIGADE IN CUBA, SENT BEFORE YOUR TELEVISION ADDRESS
TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I HAVE READ THE TEXT CAREFULLY.

I SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT CUBAN AND SOVIET INTENTIONS IN
THE CARIBBEAN. BRITAIN TOO HAS SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS THERE.
I ALSO AGREE THAT THIS DANGER EXISTS MORE WIDELY IN THE
DEVELOPING WORLD. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD
RECOGNISE YOUR RESOLVE IN THIS MATTER.

I AM THEREFORE ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGED BY YOUR STATEMENT THAT
YOU ARE ACCELERATING EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE CAPABILITY OF THE
UNITED STATES TO USE ITS MILITARY FORCES WORLD WIDE. AFTER WHAT
HAS HAPPENED IN ANGOLA, ETHIOPIA AND ELSEWHERE, THERE IS AN
IMPERATIVE NEED TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE RUSSIANS THAT THE WEST WILL
NOT TOLERATE FURTHER ACTION OF THIS KIND BY THEM AND THEIR ALLIES.

YOU KNOW THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON SALT II. WE
HOPE THAT THE TREATY WILL BE RATIFIED WITHOUT DELAY. WE WOULD
NOT WISH ANY COMPLICATIONS CONCERNING SALT II TO STAND IN THE
WAY OF NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ALLIANCE'S DEFENCES.

I WELCOME OUR CONTINUING PERSONAL CONSULTATION ON MAJOR
INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

WITH BEST WISHES,

MARGARET THATCHER

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