

## THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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28 SEP 1983MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR  
NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRSSUBJECT: President Reagan's Discussion of COCOM Issue with  
Prime Minister Thatcher (U)

(S) As you know, Prime Minister Thatcher will be in Washington on September 28-30, for a series of discussions with the President.

(S) One topic of considerable interest to both the U.S. and Great Britain focuses on recent developments within COCOM. In this regard, I wish to suggest that, in his discussions, the President commend the British Government for the constructive approach and cooperative attitude which it has recently adopted to U.S. proposals to modernize COCOM and enhance its effectiveness. Specifically, Mrs. Thatcher should be told of our appreciation for the UK's readiness to abandon its previous position and lend its support to our proposal to establish a subcommittee of defense experts for COCOM.

(S) Mrs. Thatcher's visit provides a timely opportunity to capitalize on these developments by urging the British to increase their financial support for modernizing and upgrading COCOM's capabilities. Reference to recent U.S. Congressional approval for a two-million dollar American contribution to those efforts should convince Mrs. Thatcher of the sincerity of our commitment and should add considerable clout to our appeal for increased British assistance. In this context, the Prime Minister should be advised that the UK's financial contribution to COCOM in 1983 totals some \$57,000, or ten percent of its overall operating budget.

(S) I urge the President to raise these points with Mrs. Thatcher and seek firm assurances of continued support for COCOM as well as financial commitments at a level which demonstrates that those assurances are extended in earnest.

*Paul Thayer*  
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