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*Draft*

JERUSALEM  
TO DESKBY 261000Z FCO  
TELNO 129  
OF 260740Z MAY 85

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY FROM CHARLES POWELL,  
PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER

MIPT COMPLIANCE WITH ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS

FOLLOWING IS REVISED TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER  
TO PRESIDENT REAGAN.

BEGINS.

SALT CONSTRAINTS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 23 MAY WHICH I HAVE CONSIDERED WITH  
GREAT CARE.

YOUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE YOUR INTERIM RESTRAINT DECISION FOR  
THE TIME BEING, BY ORDERING THE NECESSARY DISMANTLING OF TWO  
SUBMARINES, IS WELCOME. BUT YOU WILL KNOW FROM MY MESSAGE OF  
ONE MONTH AGO THAT THE OTHER PART OF YOUR DECISION - PROVISIONALLY  
NOT TO ABIDE BY THE SALT II LIMITS AT THE END OF THIS YEAR -  
CAUSES ME CONCERN.

YOU WILL KNOW MY VIEWS ABOUT SOVIET NON-COMPLIANCE FROM MY  
EARLIER MESSAGE. I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE PUBLIC CASE ON  
SOVIET NON-COMPLIANCE WHICH HAS SO FAR BEEN MADE OUT IS NOT  
SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR AND CONVINCING TO CARRY CONVICTION WITH PUBLIC  
OPINION. THE WAY IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO BREACH THE  
SALT II CONSTRAINTS IS, BY CONTRAST, UNAMBIGUOUS. I ALSO CONTINUE  
TO BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL BE HANDING GORBACHEV AN ENORMOUS  
PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE JUST AT THE MOMENT WHEN HE IS ON THE  
DEFENSIVE OVER CHERNOBYL, AND WILL PUT THE UNITED STATES RATHER  
THAN THE SOVIET UNION IN THE WRONG. THIS WILL COME JUST WHEN WE  
ARE ABOUT TO TRY AT THE NATO HALIFAX MEETING TO BRING HOME TO  
WESTERN OPINION THAT IT IS US, NOT GORBACHEV, WHO REALLY SEEK  
PROGRESS ON ARMS CONTROL.

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I AM, THEREFORE, FEARFUL OF THE EFFECT WHICH THE PLANNED ANNOUNCEMENT WILL HAVE AND OF THE HARM WHICH IT WILL DO TO THE UNITED STATES' POSITION. I SHALL DO MY BEST, IN ANY PUBLIC COMMENT, TO WELCOME THE POSITIVE SIDE OF YOUR DECISIONS, TO URGE THE RUSSIANS TO RESPOND TO YOUR CONCERNS, AND TO PRESERVE ALLIANCE UNITY. I NOTE THAT YOU HAVE LEFT THE DOOR OPEN TO THE SOVIET UNION TO RESPOND POSITIVELY AND THAT YOU WOULD TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT. I HOPE THIS WILL HAPPEN. BUT I SHALL HAVE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT I WOULD MUCH REGRET IT IF YOUR PROVISIONAL DECISION TO EXCEED THE LIMITS HAS TO BE IMPLEMENTED.

PLEASE FORWARD TO FCO RESIDENT CLERK.

DE COURCY-IRELAND

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