

Subject CC Minister
OPS

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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T213/86

TELEGRAM TO IMMEDIATE BONN

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Following is text of a message from the Prime Minister to Chancellor Kohl. Please arrange early delivery, together with text of press statement (Washington telno 2904, verbatim series 65).

"Thank you for your message at the beginning of November inviting participation at the meeting of European allies in Bonn on 11 November.

You will have seen the outcome of my meeting with President Reagan on 15 November. I am confident that he now understands more fully the nature and basis of European concerns about some of the proposals discussed at the Reykjavik meeting.

The President stressed to me the continuing need for effective nuclear deterrence, and his determination to proceed with the modernisation of the United States strategic ballistic missile force. Nothing that had happened at Reykjavik changed that. It was important that further negotiations should take place against a background of strength. He also acknowledged usefully that nuclear weapons could not be dealt with in isolation, and that there must be a stable overall balance at all times.

We shall need to press home the message of our concerns with the Americans in the months ahead. The statement which President Reagan and I endorsed (of which I enclose a copy) represents a valuable re-affirmation of NATO's fundamental strategy. It can be used to good effect over the next few months, and notably during the NATO Ministerial meetings next month.

But we must be careful not to appear to be moving away from those proposals which we have endorsed in the past; that is

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particularly so in the case of INF, where we should all continue to press the Russians to adopt a more logical and consistent position, but without changing our own.

I also discussed the situation in the Middle East with President Reagan. I expressed appreciation for the United States action on Syria and explained the measures which our own Foreign Ministers had agreed to take on 10 November. I outlined our own approach to the Middle East peace process, noted our concern at the continued stalemate and urged him to look at ways to give fresh impetus to the search for a peaceful settlement. He agreed on the need for movement but did not indicate that any early moves are in prospect from Washington.

On Iran, the President made clear that the United States does not pay ransom for hostages. I confirmed that that was the United Kingdom's policy too. We agreed that an end to the Gulf war and better relations between Iran and the West were highly desirable, but that we should remain strictly impartial as between Iran and Iraq.

We also discussed the situation in Southern Africa following the tragic death of President Machel. We agreed that a peaceful national dialogue in South Africa was essential, and that we should continue to look for ways of persuading President Botha to create a climate in which genuine political dialogue could start.

I look forward to discussing all these issues with you when we next meet"

MARGARET THATCHER

19 November 1986

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PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO
CHANCELLOR KOHL. PLEASE ARRANGE EARLY DELIVERY, TOGETHER WITH
TEXT OF PRESS STATEMENT (WASHINGTON TELNO 2904, VERBATIM SERIES
65). A SEPARATE MESSAGE GOES TO FITZGERALD AND A COMMON TEXT TO
ALL OTHER EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

'THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE AT THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER INVITING
PARTICIPATION AT THE MEETING OF EUROPEAN ALLIES IN BONN ON 11
NOVEMBER.

YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THE OUTCOME OF MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
REAGAN ON 15 NOVEMBER. I AM CONFIDENT THAT HE NOW UNDERSTANDS MORE
FULLY THE NATURE AND BASIS OF EUROPEAN CONCERNS ABOUT SOME OF THE
PROPOSALS DISCUSSED AT THE REYKJAVIK MEETING.

THE PRESIDENT STRESSED TO ME THE CONTINUING NEED FOR EFFECTIVE
NUCLEAR DETERRENCE, AND HIS DETERMINATION TO PROCEED WITH THE
MODERNISATION OF THE UNITED STATES STRATEGIC BALLISTIC MISSILE
FORCE. NOTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED AT REYKJAVIK CHANGED THAT. IT
WAS IMPORTANT THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE AGAINST

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A BACKGROUND OF STRENGTH. HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED USEFULLY THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS COULD NOT BE DEALT WITH IN ISOLATION, AND THAT THERE MUST BE A STABLE OVERALL BALANCE AT ALL TIMES.

WE SHALL NEED TO PRESS HOME THE MESSAGE OF OUR CONCERNS WITH THE AMERICANS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. THE STATEMENT WHICH PRESIDENT REAGAN AND I ENDORSED (OF WHICH I ENCLOSE A COPY) REPRESENTS A VALUABLE REAFFIRMATION OF NATO'S FUNDAMENTAL STRATEGY. IT CAN BE USED TO GOOD EFFECT OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, AND NOTABLY DURING THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS NEXT MONTH.

BUT WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO APPEAR TO BE MOVING AWAY FROM THOSE PROPOSALS WHICH WE HAVE ENDORSED IN THE PAST. THAT IS PARTICULARLY SO IN THE CASE OF INF, WHERE WE SHOULD ALL CONTINUE TO PRESS THE RUSSIANS TO ADOPT A MORE LOGICAL AND CONSISTENT POSITION, BUT WITHOUT CHANGING OUR OWN.

I ALSO DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE UNITED STATES ACTION ON SYRIA AND EXPLAINED THE MEASURES WHICH OUR OWN FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD AGREED TO TAKE ON 10 NOVEMBER. I OUTLINED OUR OWN APPROACH TO THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, NOTED OUR CONCERN AT THE CONTINUED STALEMATE AND URGED HIM TO LOOK AT WAYS TO GIVE FRESH IMPETUS TO THE SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. HE AGREED ON THE NEED FOR MOVEMENT BUT DID NOT INDICATE THAT ANY EARLY MOVES ARE IN PROSPECT FROM WASHINGTON.

ON IRAN, THE PRESIDENT MADE CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT PAY RANSOM FOR HOSTAGES. I CONFIRMED THAT THAT WAS THE UNITED KINGDOM'S POLICY TOO. WE AGREED THAT AN END TO THE GULF WAR AND BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND THE WEST WERE HIGHLY DESIRABLE, BUT THAT WE SHOULD REMAIN STRICTLY IMPARTIAL AS BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ.

WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOLLOWING THE TRAGIC DEATH OF PRESIDENT MACHEL. WE AGREED THAT A PEACEFUL

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NATIONAL DIALOGUE IN SOUTH AFRICA WAS ESSENTIAL, AND THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR WAYS OF PERSUADING PRESIDENT BOTHA TO CREATE A CLIMATE IN WHICH GENUINE POLITICAL DIALOGUE COULD START.

I LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING ALL THESE ISSUES WITH YOU WHEN WE NEXT MEET.'

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SOVIET DEPARTMENT
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PS/MR RENTON
MR DEREK THOMAS
MR FALL

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