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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

82 FEB 11 9:44

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., Acting
Frank C. Carlucci, III, Acting 11 FEB 1982

SUBJECT: Negotiations with the United
Kingdom on Possible Purchase
of TRIDENT D-5 Missile

As we informed you in an earlier memorandum, on February 8 and 9 we held five hours of negotiations with a delegation sent by Margaret Thatcher on the possible purchase by the United Kingdom of the TRIDENT D-5 missile. At the British request, we are keeping the fact of these negotiations tightly held.

We offered the British an arrangement for the purchase of the missiles similar to that agreed two years ago for the TRIDENT (C-4) missile. Predictably, they told us the price we offered was higher than they wished to pay. However, they agreed to propose to us additional offsets (i.e., increases in their own defense posture in areas where we would otherwise have to assume responsibility ourselves) which could make up at least some of the difference.

We will hold another round of negotiations in about two weeks, after both sides review their positions, and exchange more data. We are optimistic that we can bridge the differences between us, opening the way for an announcement in March that the British will purchase the D-5.

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RDS-3 2/9/2002

NLRR M63-193 #29043

BY KML NARA DATE 6/10/10