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File: Records

Folder Title: United Kingdom: Prime Minister
Thatcher (8591142)

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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: Executive Secretariat, National Security Council:
Head of State File

Archivist: dlb

File Folder: United Kingdom: Prime Minister Thatcher
(851142)

Date: 9/4/98

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. Memo	Peter Sommer to William Martin, re: MSE Contract Award, 1 p. <i>R 4/10/07 NLRRF02-069 #208</i>	12/9/85	P1
2. Memo	Cap Weinberger to Robert McFarlane, re: MSE Award, 1p. R, 6/30/00 NLS598-001 #209	11/27/85	P1
3. Cable	#050133Z Nov 85, 2 p <i>R 4/10/07 NLRRF02-069 #210</i>	11/5/85	P1
4. Memo	John Poindexter to Reagan, re: Reply to Prime Minister Thatcher, 1 p. <i>R 6/2/10 M07-052 #31946</i>	11/4/85	P1
5. Draft Letter	Reagan to Thatcher, 1 p. <i>R 6/2/10 M07-052 #31947</i>	n.d.	P1
6. Cable	#052026Z Nov 85, 1 p. <i>R 6/2/10 M07-052 #31948</i>	11/5/85	P1
7. Cable	#041930Z Nov 85, 2 p.	11/4/85	P1
8. Memo	Sommer/John Douglass to Poindexter, re: Presidential Reply to Mrs. Thatcher on MSE, 1 p. <i>R 6/20/08 NLRRM07-052 #31950</i>	11/4/85	P1
9. Cable	same as item #7, with comments, 2 p.	11/4/85	P1
10. Cable	#041620Z Nov 85, 2 p. <i>R 4/10/07 NLRRF02-069 #217</i>	11/4/85	P1
11. Cable	#041718Z Nov 85, 2 p. <i>Part " " #218</i>	11/4/85	P1
12. Cable	#041620Z Nov 85, 1 p. <i>R " " #219</i>	11/4/85	P1
13. Memo	Poindexter to Reagan, re: Cable to Prime Minister Thatcher, 1 p. <i>R 4/10/07 NLRRF02-069 #220</i>	11/4/85	P1
14. Letter	Reagan to Thatcher, with edits, 2 p. <i>R " " #221</i>	n.d.	P1
15. Memo	Ty Cobb/Douglass to Poindexter, re: Thatcher, 1 p. <i>R 6/20/08 NLRRM07-052 #31957</i>	11/2/85	P1
16. Letter	Reagan to Thatcher, 2 p.	n.d.	P1

R 4/10/07 NLRRF02-069 #223

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

RECEIVED 02 NOV 85 17

TO POINDEXTER

FROM COBB

DOCDATE 02 NOV 85

DOUGLASS

02 NOV 85

COBB

04 NOV 85

KEYWORDS: GREAT BRITAIN

HS

SUBJECT: PRES MSG TO PM THATCHER RE MSE & PM THATCHER RESPONSE W/ PRES RESPONSE
MSG TO THATCHER / MSE CONTRACT AWARD ISSUE

ACTION: FWD TO PRES FOR SIG

DUE:

STATUS X

FILES SII

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

MCFARLANE

COMMENTS

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

dlb 9/4/96

REF#

LOG 8590922

8590997

NSCIFID

(B / B)

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Martin

X

12/10

for decision / request

C

12/11

Martin approved

CO, PS, DT

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE (C)

CB

RECEIVED
National Security Council
The White House

85 DEC 10 AM 11

System # II 01
Package # 91142
BOT

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	<u>1</u>	<u>P</u>	<u></u>
William Martin	<u>2</u>	<u>lmm</u>	<u></u>
John Poindexter	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
Paul Thompson	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
Wilma Hall	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
Bud McFarlane	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
William Martin	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
NSC Secretariat	<u>3</u>	<u>BOT</u>	<u>N</u>
Situation Room	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other

COMMENTS Should be seen by:
(Date/Time)

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

SYSTEM II
91142
ADD-ON

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION

December 9, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM F. MARTIN

FROM: PETER R. SOMMER *PS*

SUBJECT: MSE Contract Award

In the President's final letter on MSE, he promised, in response to Mrs. Thatcher's request, that Secretary Weinberger would provide the British details on the comparative costs of the British and French systems. Defense was slow in providing the information and so I informally asked for a paper telling us how they had followed-up on the President's promise. Much to my surprise Defense sent us a formal memo signed by Cap. It is nice to have it for record purposes, but I see no need to bother John Poindexter or anyone else with it.

RECOMMENDATION

That you agree no further action is required.

Approve *lm*

Other _____

JWD
John Douglass and Ty Cobb concur. *PS*

Attachment

Tab A Memo from SecDef

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

Declassify on: OADR

NLRR *F02-069/1 #208*

BY *CJ* NARA DATE *4/10/07*



CONFIDENTIAL

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

91142

27 NOV 1985

Bud

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY
AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: MSE Award (U)

let The President promised Prime Minister Thatcher that we would provide cost analysis data to her through MOD Michael Heseltine on the MSE award. Will Taft accomplished that task in part during his visit to London last week when he provided a summary of the two bidders' prices.

(U) The Army Staff has also given Rockwell, the prime contractor for the losing bid, a full debriefing on the Army's selection. A representative from Plessey attended the meeting. In addition, Dr. Sculley, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Development, travels to the UK this week and will provide comparisons to MOD Heseltine on the two systems in eight selected cost areas.

Sgt.

DECLASSIFIED
NLS 598-001 #209
BY *dlb*, NARA, DATE *6/30/00*

Classified by: ASD/ISP
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SEC DEF CONTR No. **X37560**

CONFIDENTIAL

ORIGINAL FILE

RECEIVED 02 NOV 85 17

TO POINDEXTER

FROM COBB

DOCDATE 02 NOV 85

DOUGLASS

02 NOV 85

KEYWORDS: GREAT BRITAIN

HS

SUBJECT: PRES LTR TO PM THATCHER RE MSE

ACTION: FWD TO PRES FOR SIG

DUE:

STATUS X

FILES SII

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

MCFARLANE

COMMENTS

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KEYWORDS: GREAT BRITAIN

HS

SUBJECT: PRES MSG TO PM THATCHER RE MSE & PM THATCHER RESPONSE W/ PRES RESPONSE
MSG TO THATCHER

ACTION: FWD TO PRES FOR SIG

DUE:

STATUS X FILES SII

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

MCFARLANE

COMMENTS

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dlb 9/4/94

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(B /)

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<u>Pres</u>	<u>P 11/4</u>	<u>Signature</u>		<u>UP</u>
	<u>- 11/4</u>	<u>Pres approved msg</u>		
	<u>C 11/4</u>	<u>Copy msg sent by Sit room</u>		
<u>Poindexter</u>	<u>X 11/4</u>	<u>reopen/ Pres for decision</u>		
<u>Pres</u>	<u>P 11/4</u>	<u>for decision</u>		

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE (C)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SYSTEM II
91142 a/o OUTGOING

PAGE 01 OF 02 THE WHITE HOUSE 1292
SIT093

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TOR: 309/0122Z

DISTRIBUTION: JP /001

OP IMMED
DE WTE #1292 3090122
O 050133Z NOV 85
FM THE WHITE HOUSE

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR EOZ-01A #210
BY CL NARA DATE 4/10/07

TO THE CABINET OFFICE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS WH01292

NOVEMBER 5, 1985

DEAR MARGARET,

I WANTED TO REPLY IMMEDIATELY. AS I TOLD YOU EARLIER, MY HEART IS WITH YOU, BUT GIVEN OUR PROCUREMENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND HEIGHTENED CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC INTERESTS IN DEFENSE COSTS, DEFENSE SIMPLY COULD NOT FIND A WAY TO SPAN THE CONSIDERABLE COST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO PROPOSALS.

CAP AND HIS SENIOR STAFF ANALYZED AND RE-ANALYZED THE PROPOSALS AND, IN THE END, DEFENSE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE. AS YOU MAY KNOW, OUR COST CRITERIA INCLUDE NOT ONLY THE SYSTEM'S COST BUT ALSO THE LIFE CYCLE COSTS. I AM ASKING CAP TO PROVIDE MICHAEL HESELTINE THE DETAILS OF OUR COST ANALYSIS AND HOW WE CALCULATED THE COMPARATIVE COST. I AM ASSURED THAT DEFENSE EXPLORED EVERY POSSIBLE WAY TO BRIDGE THE GAP.

MARGARET, I FEEL OBLIGATED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT DEFENSE WILL BE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCING ITS DECISION TOMORROW, NOVEMBER 5. YOU HAVE TRULY BEEN MY MOST SOLID SUPPORTER, AND I SINCERELY WISH THE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

OUTGOING

PAGE 02 OF 02 THE WHITE HOUSE 1292

DTG: 050133Z NOV 85 PSN: 074525

OUTCOME HAD BEEN DIFFERENT.

BEST REGARDS,
RON

0221

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

National Security Council
The White House

85 NOV 5 A 9: 16

System #

II

Package #

91142
a/o

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson			
William Martin	1	um	
John Poindexter			
Paul Thompson			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane			
William Martin			
NSC Secretariat		via	
Situation Room	2	In sit um	

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cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

pls. dispatch ASAP
CABO channel.

cc: Ray SIGHTS, DCM, PRIVACY
CHANNEL

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 4, 1985

MR. PRESIDENT:

Per John Poindexter's earlier note this afternoon, attached is a proposed response from you to Mrs. Thatcher. Once you have approved the response, it will be sent to her this evening.

After you have reviewed the draft, please have the ushers return it to my office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David L. Chew

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mr. President,

I think we should
send this out tonight.

John

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mr. President,

11/4

I have a call into
Cops on this. I believe
we have already told
the French. We will
work up a response
for you to send
back tonight.

John

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The President has seen

SYSTEM II
91142
add-on

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Received SS
1985 NOV -4 PM 7:05

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ACTION

November 4, 1985

RR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JOHN M. POINDEXTER

SUBJECT: Reply to Prime Minister Thatcher (U)

JMB

Issue

To approve the reply to Mrs. Thatcher at Tab A.

Facts

Mrs. Thatcher has replied calling our decision to procure the French MSE communications equipment a bitter blow.

Discussion

In accordance with your instructions, we have drafted a firm, but polite and friendly reply.

Recommendation

OK

No

RR

That you approve the Cabinet-line reply at Tab A to Prime Minister Thatcher.

Attachment:

Tab A Cable to Prime Minister Thatcher

Prepared by:
Peter Sommer / John Douglass

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Declassify: OADR

cc Vice President

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NLRR M07-052 # 31946

BY KML NARA DATE 6/3/10

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FROM: THE WHITE HOUSE
TO: THE CABINET OFFICE, LONDON
VIA: CABINET OFFICE LINE
FOR: THE PRIME MINISTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Margaret,

I wanted to reply immediately. As I told you earlier, my heart is with you, but given our procurement laws and regulations and heightened Congressional and public interests in defense costs, Defense simply could not find a way to span the considerable cost difference between the two proposals.

Cap and his senior staff analyzed and re-analyzed the proposals and, in the end, Defense had no other choice. As you may know, our cost criteria include not only the system's cost but also the life cycle costs. I am asking Cap to provide Michael Heseltine the details of our cost analysis and how we calculated the comparative cost. I am assured that Defense explored every possible way to bridge the gap.

Margaret, I feel obligated to let you know that Defense will be publicly announcing its decision tomorrow, November 5. You have truly been my most solid supporter, and I sincerely wish the outcome had been different.

Best regards, Ron

Ron

DECLASSIFIED
NLRR M07-052 # 31947
BY KML NARA DATE 6/3/10

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL DISTRIBUTION RECORD

Log Number 91142

Date 7 NOV 1985

Subject: PM THATCHER CABLE & PRES RESPONSE CABLE

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_____ Mr. Kimmitt	_____ Mr. [REDACTED]	_____ Mr. Mahley	_____ Col. Rye	_____ Cmdr. Thompson
_____ Mr. Pearson	_____ Col. Douglass	_____ Mr. Martin	_____ Mr. Sable	_____ Mr. Wigg
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THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE Independence & 14th SW	_____	_____	_____	_____
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THE DIRECTOR, FEMA 500 C Street,	_____	_____	_____	_____
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DATE, TIME & SIGN THIS RECEIPT & RETURN TO: ST MERCHANT, SITUATION ROOM, WHITE HOUSE

Page 1 of _____ Pages

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☐ Mr. Kimmitt	☐ [REDACTED]	☐ Mr. Mahley	☐ Col. Rye	☐ Cmdr. Thompson
☐ Mr. Pearson	☐ Col. Douglass	☐ Mr. Martin	☐ Mr. Sable	☐ Mr. Wigg
☐ Mr. Burghardt	☐ Mr. Fortier	☐ Mr. Matlock	☐ Mr. Sestanovich	☐ Mr. Wood
☐ Mr. Cannistraro	☐ Mr. Grimes	☐ Mr. Menges	☐ Mr. Sigur	☐ Mr. Wright
☐ Ltc. Childress	☐ Mr. Kraemer	☐ Mr. McMinn	☐ Ms. Small	☐ NSC Secretariat
☐ Col. Cobb	☐ Mr. Laux	☐ Ltc. North	☐ Mr. Sommer	☐ Sit. Room
☐ Mr. Covey	☐ Mr. C. Lehman	☐ Mr. Raymond	☐ Cmdr. Stark	☐ NSC Admin.
☐ Mr. Cox	☐ Mr. R. Lehman	☐ Ms. Reger	☐ Mr. Steiner	☐
☐ Mr. De Graffenreid	☐ Mr. Levine	☐ Mr. Ringdahl	☐ Ms. Tahir-Kheli	☐

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White House Guidelines, August 08, 1997

By dlb NARA, Date 9/4/98

DATE, TIME & SIGN THIS RECEIPT & RETURN TO: BT MERCHANT, SITUATION ROOM, WHITE HOUSE

Page 1 of 1 Pages

7 NOV 1985

SYSTEM II
91142

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL POWELL
MILITARY ASSISTANT
OSD, DEPT OF DEFENSE

Attached per your request to
Admiral Poindexter are copies of
PM Thatcher's cable to the President
and the President's reply cable.

Please handle these cables on a
sensitive, close-hold basis.

BTM

BT MERCHANT
WH Situation Room
456-2585

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OUTGOING

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 01
SIT568

THE WHITE HOUSE 1317

DTG: 052026Z NOV 85 PSN: 001351
TOR: 309/2014Z

DISTRIBUTION: JP /001

OP IMMED
O 052026Z NOV 85
FM THE WHITE HOUSE

TO THE CABINET OFFICE

~~SECRET~~ WH01317

NOVEMBER 5, 1985

DEAR MARGARET,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUICK MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. COUNTERPROPOSAL THAT I OUTLINED TO YOU ON OCTOBER 31. WE INTEND TO KEEP THE CENTER-OF-GRAVITY OF THE PROPOSALS AROUND THE STRATEGIC AND INF DEFINITIONS WITH WHICH BOTH THE WEST AND THE SOVIETS ARE WELL FAMILIAR. OUR NEW PROPOSALS SEEK A BRIDGE BETWEEN SOME OF THE NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES THEY HAVE ON THE TABLE AND OUR OWN FORMULATIONS FOR DEEP REDUCTIONS.

THE IMPRESSIONS YOU PASSED FROM KADAR WERE ENCOURAGING. AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUED COUNSEL, BOTH DURING OUR MEETINGS IN NEW YORK AND IN THIS LATEST EXCHANGE.

WITH WARM, PERSONAL REGARDS,

RON

0160

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NLRR M07-052 #31948

BY KML NARA DATE 6/3/10

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8591142

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National Security Council
The White House

360

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System #

II

Package #

91142

85 NOV 4

P 5: 51

54

SEQUENCE TO

HAS SEEN

DISPOSITION

Bob Pearson

1

P

William Martin

2

Wm

John Poindexter

3

P

A

Paul Thompson

Wilma Hall

Bud McFarlane

William Martin

NSC Secretariat

4

Jm

D

Situation Room

I = Information

A = Action

R = Retain

D = Dispatch

N = No further Action

cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other

COMMENTS

Should be seen by:

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85 NOV 4 6: 51

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

SYSTEM II
91142
add-on

November 4, 1985

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN M. POINDEXTER

FROM: PETER ~~SOMMER~~ ^{JWD} / JOHN DOUGLASS

SUBJECT: Presidential Reply to Mrs. Thatcher on MSE ~~(U)~~

As you know, Mrs. Thatcher has replied, calling Defense's decision a bitter blow. We have prepared a brief, firm but polite reply.

Recommendation

That you sign the Tab I memo to the President, forwarding the reply for his approval.

Agree *f*

Disagree

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum for the President
Tab A Reply to Mrs. Thatcher

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Declassify on: OADR

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NLRR MD7-052 #31950

BY *GV* NARADATE 6/20/08

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The White House**

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85 NOV 4 P12:40

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Paul Thompson	_____	_____	_____
Bob Kimmitt	_____	_____	_____
John Poindexter	<u>1</u>	<u>X</u>	_____
Tom Shull	_____	_____	_____
Wilma Hall	_____	_____	_____
Bud McFarlane	_____	_____	_____
Bob Kimmitt <u>BILL MARTIN</u>	<u>2</u>	_____	<u>A</u>
NSC Secretariat	<u>4</u>	_____	<u>N</u>
Situation Room	<u>3</u>	<u>UB</u>	_____

I = Information

A = Action

R = Retain

D = Dispatch

N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____

(Date/Time)

Bill,
Send this via CABO channel to
Mrs. Thatcher, send parallel cable to
Charlie Price via privacy channel.
Coordinate transmission time with
Colin Powell. J

**National Security Council
The White House**

System #

11

Package #

91142

53

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	<u>1</u>		
William Martin	<u>2</u>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<u>A</u>
John Poindexter			
Paul Thompson			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane			
William Martin			
NSC Secretariat			
Situation Room			

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other _____

COMMENTS

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(Date/Time)

*For Jmp to take to
9:15 am mty*

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SYSTEM II
91142

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PAGE 01 OF 02 THE WHITE HOUSE 1271
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DE WTE #1271 3081628
O 041620Z NOV 85
FM THE WHITE HOUSE

NLRR F02-069 #217
BY CN NARA DATE 4/10/07

TO CABINET OFFICE

~~SECRET~~ VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS WH01271

NOVEMBER 4, 1985

DEAR MARGARET,

I AM SADDENED BY THE TASK OF HAVING TO NOTIFY YOU THAT WE HAVE DECIDED TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO THE FRENCH-U.S. TEAM OF GTE-THOMSON-CSF FOR OUR MILITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. THE U.K.-U.S. TEAM OF PLESSEY-ROCKWELL MADE A TECHNICAL PROPOSAL THAT DEMONSTRATED THE HIGHLY SKILLED CAPABILITY THESE COMPANIES POSSESS. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, THE FRENCH-U.S. SYSTEM ALSO MET U.S. MILITARY REQUIREMENTS, AND WAS ESTIMATED TO COST SEVERAL BILLIONS OF DOLLARS LESS. UNDER OUR PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES AND BUDGET AND OVERSIGHT PRESSURE FROM CONGRESS, CAP WAS JUST NOT ABLE TO TAKE ANY OTHER DECISION.

I AM FULLY AWARE OF YOUR MANY EFFORTS TO SUPPORT U.K.-U.S. COOPERATIVE EFFORTS AND PERSONALLY DIRECTED CAP TO VERIFY INDEPENDENTLY THE COSTS INVOLVED TO BE CERTAIN ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE DIFFERENCES. BECAUSE I SHARE AND APPRECIATE YOUR INTEREST IN IMPROVING U.K.-U.S. COOPERATIVE

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

OUTGOING

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 02 THE WHITE HOUSE 1271 DTG: 041620Z NOV 85 PSN: 072600

EFFORTS I HAVE ASKED CAP TO PROCEED ON TWO FRONTS IN REGARDS TO FINDING WAYS FOR US TO ALIGN OUR DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF U.K. SKILLS AND INDUSTRIAL EXPERTISE. FIRST, WE WILL RENEW OUR EFFORTS TO INTEGRATE U.K. FIRMS AND CAPABILITIES INTO OUR SDI PROGRAM AND INDEED INTO OUR DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS IN GENERAL. SECOND, WE WILL LOOK FOR WAYS TO SHARE OUR TECHNOLOGICAL ASSETS WITH YOU WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF SPECIAL BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGIES THAT WE BOTH HOPE WILL ALLOW THE U.K. TO ASSUME MORE RAPIDLY A POSITION OF TECHNOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP IN ITS VARIOUS EUROPEAN COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. WE WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH YOU IN REGARDS TO BOTH APPROACHES IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

SINCERELY,

RON

BT
0341

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

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PAGE 01 OF 02 THE WHITE HOUSE 1274
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TO

~~SECRET~~ VIA PRIVACY CHANNELS WH01274

DI

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR PRICE FROM ROBERT
MCFARLANE

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT TO PM THATCHER THIS EVENING

NOVEMBER 4, 1985

DEAR MARGARET,

I AM SADDENED BY THE TASK OF HAVING TO NOTIFY YOU THAT WE HAVE
DECIDED TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO THE FRENCH-U.S. TEAM OF
GTE-THOMSON-CSF FOR OUR MILITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR MOBILE
COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. THE U.K.-U.S. TEAM OF PLESSEY-ROCKWELL
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CONGRESS, CAP WAS JUST NOT ABLE TO TAKE ANY OTHER DECISION.

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PAGE 02 OF 02 THE WHITE HOUSE 1274 DTG: 041718Z NOV 85 PSN: 072668

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SINCERELY,

RON

BT

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11/4/85 10:40

Adrian Dail

1

11-5-85 0605

Lawrence C. Miller

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White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997

By dlb NARA, Date 9/4/98

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_____ Mr. Kimmitt	_____ Mr. [REDACTED]	_____ Mr. Mahley	_____ Col. Rye	_____ Cmdr. Thompson
_____ Mr. Pearson	_____ Col. Douglass	_____ Mr. Martin	_____ Mr. Sable	_____ Mr. Wigg
_____ Mr. Burghardt	_____ Mr. Fortier	_____ Mr. Matlock	_____ Mr. Sestanovich	_____ Mr. Wood
_____ Mr. Cannistraro	_____ Mr. Grimes	_____ Mr. Menges	_____ Mr. Sigur	_____ Mr. Wright
_____ Ltc. Childress	_____ Mr. Kraemer	_____ Mr. McMin	_____ Ms. Small	_____ NSC Secretariat
_____ Col. Cobb	_____ Mr. Laux	_____ Ltc. North	_____ Mr. Sommer	_____ Sit. Room
_____ Mr. Covey	_____ Mr. C. Lehman	_____ Mr. Raymond	_____ Cmdr. Stark	_____ NSC Admin.
_____ Mr. Cox	_____ Mr. R. Lehman	_____ Ms. Reger	_____ Mr. Steiner	_____
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White House Guidelines, August 22, 1987
By dlb NARA, Date 9/4/98

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Brian Merchant
with Adam

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☐ Mr. Kimmitt	☐ Mr. [REDACTED]	☐ Mr. Mahley	☐ Col. Rye	☐ Cmdr. Thompson
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☐ Mr. Cannistraro	☐ Mr. Grimes	☐ Mr. Menges	☐ Mr. Sigur	☐ Mr. Wright
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☐ Col. Cobb	☐ Mr. Laux	☐ Ltc. North	☐ Mr. Sommer	☐ Sit. Room
☐ Mr. Covey	☐ Mr. C. Lehman	☐ Mr. Raymond	☐ Cmdr. Stark	☐ NSC Admin.
☐ Mr. Cox	☐ Mr. R. Lehman	☐ Ms. Reger	☐ Mr. Steiner	
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PAGE 01
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FM THE WHITE HOUSE

TO LONDON

~~SECRET~~

NOVEMBER 4, 1985

DEAR MARGARET,

I AM SADDENED BY THE TASK OF HAVING TO NOTIFY YOU THAT WE HAVE DECIDED TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO THE FRENCH-U. S. TEAM OF GTE-THOMSON-CSF FOR OUR MILITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. THE U. K. -U. S. TEAM OF PLESSEY-ROCKWELL MADE A TECHNICAL PROPOSAL THAT DEMONSTRATED THE HIGHLY SKILLED CAPABILITY THESE COMPANIES POSSESS. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, THE FRENCH-U. S. SYSTEM ALSO MET U. S. MILITARY REQUIREMENTS, AND WAS ESTIMATED TO COST SEVERAL BILLIONS OF DOLLARS LESS. UNDER OUR PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES AND BUDGET AND OVERSIGHT PRESSURE FROM CONGRESS, CAP WAS JUST NOT ABLE TO TAKE ANY OTHER DECISION.

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SINCERELY,

RON

BT
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NLRR 802-009 #219

BY CU NARA DATE 6/10/07

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**National Security Council
The White House**

System #

Package #

II

91142

85 NOV 4 P 6: 39

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson			
William Martin			
John Poindexter			
Paul Thompson			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane			
William Martin			
NSC Secretariat	2	Jan/31M	R/D
Situation Room	1	Ralph	D

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

Send to Sitz, privacy channel
and cc to Nick Platt

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 4, 1985

David,

John Poindexter said it would be
useful to get this signed tonight and
returned to the SIT Room for dispatch.

Bill

Bill Martin

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

November 4, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JOHN M. POINDEXTER *JMB*
SUBJECT: Cable to Prime Minister Thatcher (U)

Issue

To approve the cable to Mrs. Thatcher at Tab A. (U)

Facts

The Department of Defense has decided to award the multi-billion dollar contract for the Mobile Subscriber Equipment (MSE) to the French-U.S. team of GTE-Thomson-CSF. PM Thatcher has lobbied you very hard to weigh in on behalf of the British competitor and Cap scrutinized the two proposals thoroughly. The French system was considerably cheaper and technically as proficient, leaving DoD no choice but to go with proposal. (S)

Discussion

Because of Mrs. Thatcher's personal interest in this decision a proposed cable from you to the PM is attached at Tab A. You inform Mrs. Thatcher of the DoD decision, but also stress that Cap will seek to insure that the British are involved deeply in our SDI program and in cooperation on sensitive technologies. While this will not completely allay Mrs. Thatcher's concerns, it will soften the sting. (S)

Recommendation

OK

No

*RR per
JMB
with modification*

That you approve the cable at Tab A to Prime Minister Thatcher. (U)

Attachment:

Tab A Cable to Prime Minister Thatcher

DECLASSIFIED
NLRR 802-069 #220
BY CAJ NARA DATE 4/10/07

Prepared by:
Tyrus W. Cobb

~~SECRET~~

Declassify: OADR (U)

~~SECRET~~

Dear Margaret,

I am saddened by the task of having to notify you that we have decided to award a contract to the French-U.S. team of GTE-Thomson-CSF for our military requirements for mobile communications equipment. The U.K.-U.S. team of Plessey-Rockwell made a technical proposal that demonstrated the highly skilled capability these companies possess. Unfortunately, however, the French-U.S. system also met U.S. military requirements, and was estimated to cost several billions of dollars less. Under our procurement procedures, ^{and budget and oversight present from the Congress.} Cap was just not able to take any other decision.

I am fully aware of your many efforts to support U.K.-U.S. cooperative efforts and personally directed Cap to independently verify the costs involved to be certain about the validity of the magnitude of the differences. Because I share and appreciate your interest in improving U.K.-U.S. cooperative efforts I have asked Cap to proceed on two fronts in regards to finding ways for us to align our defense requirements to take advantage of U.K. skills and industrial expertise. First, we will renew our efforts to integrate U.K. firms and capabilities

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NLRR FOI-069 #221

BY CU NARA DATE 4/10/07

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

2

into our SDI program and indeed into our defense requirements in general. Second, we will look for ways to share our technological assets with you within the constraints of special bilateral agreements on sensitive technologies that we both hope will allow the U.K. to assume more rapidly a position of technological leadership in its various European cooperative development programs. We will be in contact with you in regards to both approaches in the near future.

Sincerely,

11/4

*President approved with
modification.*

Ron

R

~~SECRET~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

SYSTEM II
91142

November 2, 1985

~~SECRET~~

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN M. POINDEXTER

FROM: *the JWD* TYRUS COBB/JOHN DOUGLASS

SUBJECT: Presidential Letter to Mrs. Thatcher on MSE ~~(S)~~

Although our earlier agreement was that Secretary Weinberger would handle the notification to the British in the event that the contract on the MSE was awarded to the French, we now understand that the President wants to notify Mrs. Thatcher personally by cable. Attached at Tab I is a memorandum from you to the President forwarding a proposed cable to the PM. ~~(S)~~

I understand that once the President has approved this cable that Secretary Weinberger will also notify Ambassador Rogers so that he can personally notify President Mitterrand of this decision. Following this the SECDEF will notify his counterparts and provide more details. ~~(S)~~

RECOMMENDATION

That you forward Tab I to the President. ~~(U)~~

Approve *[Signature]*

Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to President

Tab A Letter to Mrs. Thatcher

~~SECRET~~

Declassify: OADR

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NLRR M07-052*31957

BY CL NARA DATE 6/20/08

~~SECRET~~

Dear Margaret,

I am saddened by the task of having to notify you that we have decided to award a contract to the French-U.S. team of GTE-Thomson-CSF for our military requirements for mobile communications equipment. The U.K.-U.S. team of Plessey-Rockwell made a technical proposal that demonstrated the highly skilled capability these companies possess. Unfortunately, however, the French-U.S. system also met U.S. military requirements, and was estimated to cost several billions of dollars less. Under our procurement procedures, Cap was just not able to take any other decision.

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NLRR FOI-009 #223

BY CN NAR/DATE 4/10/07

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

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into our SDI program and indeed into our defense requirements in general. Second, we will look for ways to share our technological assets with you within the constraints of special bilateral agreements on sensitive technologies that we both hope will allow the U.K. to assume more rapidly a position of technological leadership in its various European cooperative development programs. We will be in contact with you in regards to both approaches in the near future.

Sincerely,

Ron

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