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FROM: STAY

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ACTION:

1.

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER HEATH SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT ON MAY 4:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:


I AM PLEASED TO GIVE YOU MY ASSURANCES THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL REGARD THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING LAST REAFFIRMED IN MY LETTER OF DECEMBER 14, 1970 (CONCERNING CONSULTATION BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS BEFORE CERTAIN FORCES EQUIPPED WITH UNITED STATES NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND OPERATING FROM BASES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OR BERMUDA, WOULD USE THESE WEAPONS) AS APPLYING WITH RESPECT TO FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINES (POSEIDON-EQUIPPED) IN THE SAME MANNER AND TO THE SAME EXTENT AS WITH RESPECT TO POLARIS SUBMARINES.

I ACCORDINGLY CONFIRM THAT THE AMENDMENTS YOU PROPOSE TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING CONSULTATION ARE ACCEPTABLE TO ME. I AM ENCLOSING THE AMENDED VERSION OF THE MEMORANDUM.

Sincerely:

UNQUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ENCLOSURE TO ABOVE LETTER:

QUOTE:

UNDERSTANDINGS WITH THE BRITISH ON THE USE OF BRITISH BASES AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS

1. OUR UNDERSTANDING ON THE USE OF BRITISH BASES IS THAT THE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER WILL REACH A JOINT DECISION BY SPEAKING PERSONALLY WITH EACH OTHER

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BEFORE CERTAIN FORCES EQUIPPED WITH U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND OPERATING FROM BASES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OR BERMUDA WILL USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NAMELY: SAC TOBRUK, BRITISH SUBMARINES, INCLUDING AIRCRAFT OF SUCH COMMAND, EQUIPPED WITH BRITISH NUCLEAR, WEAPONS), FORCES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WHICH ARE ASSIGNED TO OR EARNED FOR ASSIGNMENT TO NATO COMMANDER, U.S. POLARIS, AND POSEIDON SUBMARINES IN BRITISH TERRITORIAL WATERS AND U.S. FORCES IN BERMUDA. THE BASIC UNDERSTANDING IS CONTAINED IN THE COMMUNIQUE OF JANUARY 9, 1952, COVERING THE TRUMAN-CURCHILL TALKS.

INNERQUOTE UNDER ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR THE COMMON DEFENCE, THE UNITED STATES HAS THE USE OF CERTAIN BASES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM; WE REAFFIRM THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE USE OF THESE BASES IN AN EMERGENCY WOULD BE A MATTER FOR JOINT DECISION BY HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN THE LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILING AT THE TIME. END INNERQUOTE.


INNERQUOTE BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES, A GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE USE OF BASES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM BY UNITED STATES FORCES, WHICH USE IN AN EMERGENCY SHALL BE A MATTER FOR JOINT DECISION BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN THE LIGHT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME. END INNERQUOTE.

2. THERE IS A SECOND, MORE GENERAL UNDERSTANDING WITH THE BRITISH THAT WE WILL CONSULT WITH THEM BEFORE USING NUCLEAR WEAPONS ANYWHERE. THE BASIC UNDERSTANDING ON THIS POINT IS CONTAINED IN A MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND EDEN ON MARCH 9, 1953. EDEN HAD ASKED FOR AN ASSURANCE OF CONSULTATION BY THE PRESIDENT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER PRIOR TO U.S. USE OF ANY NUCLEAR WEAPON.

INNERQUOTE HE (THE PRESIDENT) SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD, OF COURSE, IN THE EVENT OF INCREASED TENSION OR THE THREAT OF WAR, TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE STEP TO CONSULT WITH BRITAIN AND OUR OTHER ALLIES. END INNERQUOTE.

THE PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED THIS UNDERSTANDING WHEN HE WROTE TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON OCTOBER 27, 1969, IN CONNECTION WITH THE 'HOLY LOCH' THING.

INNERQUOTE WITH REFERENCE TO THE LAUNCHING OF MISSILES FROM THE U.S. POLARIS SUBMARINES. I GIVE YOU THE FOLLOWING ASSURANCE, WHICH OF COURSE IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED PUBLICLY IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, SUCH AS INCREASED TENSION OR
THREAT OF WAR, THE U.S. WILL TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE STEP TO CONSULT WITH BRITAIN AND OTHER ALLIES. THIS REAFFIRMS THE ASSURANCE I GAVE FOREIGN SECRETARY EDEN ON MARCH 9, 1953. END INNERTAME.
4. Following is text of note from Secretary of State Rogers to British Ambassador dated May 4, 1971:

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note number 89 of April 8, 1971, expressing the agreement of Her Majesty's Government to the use of Nuclear Holy Loch by Fleet Ballistic Missiles. Submarines (Poseidon-equipped) in the same way as their sisters of the Polaris and under the same arrangements as are set out in the Memorandum of Understanding annexed to my letter of February 20, 1964. I should also like to convey to you my appreciation for the expeditious action of Her Majesty's Government on this matter. "

"Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration."

5. Reftel B para three noted that Deptoff raised question with UK EMB off whether HMG interpreted current exchange of notes regarding FBNs (Poseidon) use of Holy Loch to constitute agreement separate from 1964 Holy Loch agreement. On April 16 UK EMB off replied orally that FOHoff considered there was only one agreement extant, 1964 Memorandum of Understanding, and that British Ambassador's note of April 8 (see par 2 ref tel B) could be viewed as an interpretation or elaboration of 1964 Basic Agreement. Specifically April 8 note has effect of confirming applicability of 1964 nou 10 Poseidon-equipped systems. For further UK views on 1964 Holy Loch agreement as applying to FBNS (Poseidon-equipped) and future systems also see State 51810 para 2. Under these circumstances, SecState reply is in form of acknowledgment of receipt of British Ambassador's note and all necessary assurances or commitments having been made in 1964 Holy Loch agreement. GP-IRWIN