

TOP SECRET

10 DOWNING STREET

9

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812

FILE TITLE:

PROJECT "MOONFLOWER"

SERIES

DEFENCE

PART:

1

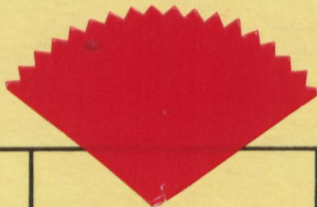
PART BEGINS:

FEB 1986

PART ENDS:

DECEMBER 1986

CAB ONE:



Series
Closed

PREM 19/1844

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TOP SECRET

SERIES

CLOSED

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Charles

which file should
this go on?

Julie

10/12

New file -
only me to
have access.

SECRET



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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

9 December 1986

Dear John,

PROJECT MOONFLOWER

Thank you for your letter of 8 December about Project Moonflower. The Prime Minister was grateful to be brought up to date, and is content with the position we have taken. The matter was not raised by Secretary Weinberger.

Your sincerely,

(C. D. POWELL)

John Howe, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence

SECRET



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone 01-930 7022

MO 14/2E

8th December 1986

*has seen
an* ~~*Prime Minister*~~
*CJP
STN*

See above.

PROJECT "MOONFLOWER"

This is the name that we now give to the "black" subject to which Admiral Poindexter referred in private conversation with you after Camp David, and on which you and I agree that it would be timely for the Defence Secretary to bring the Prime Minister up to date. Unfortunately there had not yet been an opportunity.

In essence, the position is this: Mr Younger and Mr Weinberger have had a private word in the margin of various recent NATO meetings. Mr Weinberger has offered us a chance to purchase the current US aircraft, but we have replied that we would not wish actually to buy hardware while the programme itself remains strictly black. We have, however, said that we would be most interested in technology exchange and we await American proposals on this. It would involve widening the circle of people who have access to the subject.

Mr Weinberger throughout has been most constructive in his offers of help. We for our part feel that we have been equally constructive in our response, and have no sense of having turned down an offer, except on the particular issue of buying aircraft at the present time. Mr Younger raised the subject very briefly with Mr Weinberger privately this morning but not to go into any detail on what Poindexter said to you, just sufficiently to test whether Weinberger is disappointed at our reaction so far. He certainly does not seem to be.

I rather doubt whether Weinberger for his part will raise the subject with the Prime Minister this afternoon.

Yes surely.
J F Howe

(J F HOWE)

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

Subject cc OPS
master

TOP SECRET

LO4ACM

8

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL NO. T 52A/86

COPY 2 OF 2 COPIES

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM PRIME MINISTER
THATCHER

Dear Ron,

Thank you so much for your delightful letter and for your kindness in sending Cap to brief me. I was immensely impressed by your ^{splendid} achievement: three cheers for America! I was also very touched by the generosity of the offer of participation which he brought. It brings home once again who our real friends are. We shall be following up the offer straightaway with the experts he has nominated. We shall continue to restrict knowledge very closely indeed on our side.

I am following very carefully your efforts with Congress over Nicaragua. All the reports indicate that it is becoming a more and more repressive regime.

I have just had a report from our representative on the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group on South Africa. I think the whole Group feel their mission offers a way through, perhaps a last chance to find a peaceful way through. It is important that you and I should work side by side to bring home to President Botha the need not to reject their suggestions for getting a dialogue started between the South African Government and black representatives. I shall be writing to you in more detail about this shortly.

It seems a long time since we had a really good talk and there is a great deal which requires discussion. I am so much looking forward to seeing you in Tokyo.

With warmest best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Margaret

17 March 1986

TOP SECRET

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH SECRETARY WEINBERGER

You will be meeting Secretary Weinberger for a briefing on a very highly clasified subject on Monday at 4.00 pm.

I have arranged for the meeting to be held in the Ministry of Defence special briefing room, which has all the necessary equipment. You will probably want to get there just before 4.00 pm to meet Mr. Weinberger when he arrives.

Those present on our side will be Defence Secretary, CDS, Professor Norman and me.

Secretary Weinberger will be accompanied by:

- Dr Don Hicks - Under Secretary for Research & Engineering
- General Powell - Private Secretary to Mr. Weinberger
- General Allen - who will do the briefing

You will want to establish at the beginning whether I can take a note - which would of course be available only to those attending the meeting.

After the briefing you will want to establish with Mr. Weinberger:

- (i) what scope he sees for British involvement;
- (ii) how further discussions should be organised; and
- (iii) who should be involved.

CDP

CDP

14 March 1986

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. TSIA/86

Prime Minister

*Cap Weinberger brought
him with him.*

6

C.D.P. 17/3.

*Subject cc Ops
Master.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 14, 1986

Dear Margaret:

I am delighted that you will be meeting with Cap Weinberger next week in London.

I wanted to take the opportunity of his visit to send my personal greetings and to underline how highly I value your support, advice, and counsel. I am pleased to learn that he will be briefing you on one of our most important and sensitive new technologies. We would, of course, welcome your reaction to this briefing.

My attention here has been focused on our important request to the Congress for aid for the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters. I am determined to exhibit a trait that you have demonstrated time and time again: perseverance.

Please stay in close touch.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

Ron

The Right Honorable
Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister
London

US Declassified

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TO CABINET OFFICE LONDON
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T O P S E C R E T VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS EYES ONLY WHO1301 ³

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MR. CHARLES POWELL FROM ADMIRAL JOHN M. POINDEXTER, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR FOR THE PRESIDENT

DEAR CHARLES,

SECRETARY WEINBERGER IS COMPLETING HIS PLANS TO MEET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON MARCH 17 AT 4 P.M. ON THE SPECIAL PROGRAM WHICH WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING.

SECRETARY WEINBERGER AND HIS PARTY WILL BE STAYING AT GROSVENOR HOUSE, ARRIVING SUNDAY EVENING MARCH 16. ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY WEINBERGER TO THE MEETING WILL BE DR. DON HICKS, UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING, MAJOR GENERAL COLIN POWELL, BRIGADIER GENERAL SELECTEE JAMES ALLEN, THE BRIEFER AND POSSIBLY COL JOHN DOUGLASS FROM THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. THEY WILL NEED AN OVERHEAD TRANSPARENCY PROJECTOR CAPABLE OF HANDLING 8 INCH BY 10 INCH TRANSPARENCIES MOUNTED IN 10 INCH BY 14 INCH FRAMES. A 16 MILLIMETER SOUND MOVIE PROJECTOR WILL ALSO BE NEEDED AND, OF COURSE, A PROJECTION SCREEN.

THE BRIEFING WILL BE AT ONE OF OUR HIGHEST LEVELS OF CLASSIFICATION. FOR THAT REASON ACCESS MUST BE LIMITED ONLY TO THE PERSONS IDENTIFIED IN THE PRIME MINISTERS MESSAGE. WE MUST INSIST THAT THE INFORMATION GO NO FURTHER. AS WE PROCEED FURTHER WITH OUR DISCUSSIONS, IT WILL, OF COURSE, BE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF, BUT FOR THE MOMENT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE INFORMATION REMAIN WITHIN THE GROUP ATTENDING THE BRIEFING.

GENERAL POWELL WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU ON THE MORNING OF 17 MARCH.

SINCERELY,

JOHN

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FM THE WHITE HOUSE
TO THE CABINET OFFICE
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US Declassified

*Prime Minister
Des refers to
the 'special' meeting
with Cap Weinberger.*

T O P S E C R E T VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS WHO1008

FEBRUARY 26, 1986

*CDP
x/p.*

DEAR MARGARET:

I AM DELIGHTED TO HEAR THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE CAP WEINBERGER ON MARCH 17 AT 4:00 PM TO DISCUSS THE SPECIAL PROGRAM I WROTE YOU ABOUT. CAP WAS PLANNING TO BE IN LONDON THAT DAY TO VISIT WITH GEORGE YOUNGER PRIOR TO THE NPG MEETING IN GERMANY LATER THAT WEEK.

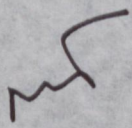
CAPS STAFF WILL WORK WITH GEORGES STAFF TO ARRANGE THE USUAL MEETINGS. THE SCHEDULE WILL BE ARRANGED SO THAT CAP WILL BE FREE TO JOIN YOU AT YOUR DESIGNATED LOCATION AT 4:00 PM. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY DR. DONALD HICKS, THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING, MAJOR GENERAL COLIN POWELL, CAPS MILITARY ASSISTANT, AND NOT MORE THAN ONE OR TWO TECHNICAL EXPERTS.

IN ORDER TO KEEP ACCESS RESTRICTED ON THIS SUBJECT, WE WILL CONTINUE TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU THROUGH THIS CHANNEL. UPON ARRIVAL IN LONDON, GENERAL POWELL WILL CONTACT CHARLES POWELL TO ARRANGE THE LAST-MINUTE DETAILS. HE WILL ASK CHARLES TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FROM THEIR HOTEL TO THE MEETING SITE.

I KNOW YOU WILL FIND WHAT CAP PRESENTS TO YOU EXTREMELY INTERESTING AND I LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR REACTION.

SINCERELY,

RON



0251
01008

NNNN

DE CAB QSL WAG 002 AT 261604Z ERW

*Subject cc ops
master*

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T40¹⁰/86**

1630 18/3

SECRET AND STRICTLY PERSONAL

3



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone ~~01-930 7022~~ 218 2111/3

MO 14/2E

7th February 1986

Dear Mr. As,

Thank you for your letter of 4th February.

The main constraint on Mr Younger's timetable is the need to travel to the NPG meeting in Wurzburg in West Germany where he is due to arrive by 1600 hours on Wednesday 19th March. I mention this because it will also no doubt affect Mr Weinberger's travel plans and possibly the timing of the meeting. We are incidentally hoping to arrange a separate introductory getting to know you session with Mr Weinberger as he passes through London. It would therefore be very helpful if your people could keep in touch with mine about their knowledge of his programme.

On the Ministry of Defence team, on reflection I think this should be Mr Younger, CDS, Sir Clive Whitmore and, if there is room, our Chief Scientific Adviser. I also think, again on reflection, that it would preferable to hold the meeting in the secure briefing room in the Cabinet Office rather than here. The presence of both the Prime Minister and Mr Weinberger in this building simultaneously would inevitably arouse more interest and be more visible than the alternative of using your own premises.

Yours etc,

Richard Mottram

(R C MOTTRAM)
Private Secretary

Charles Powell Esq
Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street

SECRET AND STRICTLY PERSONAL



10 DOWNING STREET

2 File copy
(no 2nd carbon)

4 February 1986

From the Private Secretary

Dear Richard,

Following a conversation between the Prime Minister and Mr McFarlane last November, President Reagan has sent the Prime Minister a message offering to brief her and a very limited number of others on some highly sensitive United States military technology, with a view to the United States and the United Kingdom working together on it.

The proposal is that the briefing would be done by Secretary Weinberger who would be accompanied by a small group of experts. The briefing would be restricted to the Prime Minister and four or five others. It would be conducted in London in the week beginning 17 March. We are asked to provide an appropriately secured facility.

The Prime Minister proposes to accept this offer. The time which would suit her best would be 1000-1130 on Wednesday 19 March. She proposes to suggest that those invited to attend the briefing should be the Defence Secretary, CDS, the MOD Chief Scientific Adviser, the Chief of Defence Intelligence and me. The Americans may however insist on a still more restricted group. One option would be to hold the briefing in a secure briefing room in the Ministry of Defence (though there are other alternatives).

The Prime Minister would be grateful to know whether the proposed timing is acceptable to Mr Younger so that she can reply to President Reagan. She would not want any feelers to be put out to others in Washington about this briefing beforehand.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Powell

TNS

Richard Mottram Esq
Ministry of Defence

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T23/86

WAG001
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FM THE WHITE HOUSE
TO CABINET OFFICE
ZEM

US Declassified



T O P S E C R E T VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS WH00508
PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO PRIME
MINISTER THATCHER.

FEBRUARY 3, 1986

DEAR MARGARET:

LAST NOVEMBER BUD MCFARLANE SPOKE TO YOU IN CONFIDENCE ABOUT
OUR SHARING SOME OF OUR MOST SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY WITH THE U.K.

I HAVE SINCE SPOKEN TO CAP ABOUT THE PROGRAM BUD MENTIONED,
AND CAP IS PREPARED TO BRIEF YOU AND A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF U.K.
OFFICIALS WHEN HE IS IN THE U.K. NEXT MONTH FOR THE NPG
MEETING, OR HE COULD COME EARLIER IF YOU PREFER. I WOULD
APPRECIATE HEARING FROM YOU WHETHER YOU HAVE TIME TO PURSUE
THIS ISSUE WITH CAP IN LONDON SOMETIME THE WEEK OF 17 MARCH OR
EARLIER.

CAP WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SMALL GROUP OF EXPERTS. THESE
EXPERTS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO BRIEF YOU AND THREE OR FOUR OTHERS
(PERHAPS FROM YOUR MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, MILITARY AND RESEARCH
ESTABLISHMENTS) ON OUR VIEWS OF HOW WE MIGHT WORK TOGETHER ON
THIS MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE.

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR HOLDING THESE BRIEFINGS AND THEIR
SUBJECT MATTER IN THE STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE BECAUSE OF THE
GREAT NATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS FOR BOTH OUR COUNTRIES.
TOWARDS THIS END, YOUR DISCUSSION WITH CAP AND THE BRIEFINGS TO
THE U.K. OFFICIALS MENTIONED ABOVE SHOULD BE HELD IN AN
APPROPRIATELY SECURED FACILITY.
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON.

WARM REGARDS,

RON

0276
00508

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Inches 1 2 3
Centimetres 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Colour Chart #13

Blue Cyan Green Yellow



Grey Scale #13



A 1 2 3 4 5 6 **M** 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 **B** 17 18 19

