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NUCLEAR MATTERS

You asked for comments on the brief for the Washington team, to be discussed at tomorrow's meeting of the Permanent Secretaries' Group. These are as follows:

a. Para 1. While agreeing with the last sentence, you may wish to point out that the wording of Parts I and II was in many places carefully gauged to the sensitivities of the previous Government; and, as a particular point, that the Chiefs of Staff have reservations about criteria option 3b (30 bangs on 30 cities). *DETAILS NOT IN PACK NO 1*

*Plenty*

b. Paras 3 - 5. It was agreed at a preliminary meeting of CSA's team that these paragraphs in particular must not be taken as holy writ. They summarize a complex and carefully constructed argument and reference should be made to the Duff-Mason Report Part I if detailed doctrine is required.

c. Para 6, last sentence but one. The point about criteria option 3b could be made with even greater force here. We deliberately inserted the flatter language "It has been assessed" in order to avoid any question of endorsement by the Chiefs of Staff. *option 3b*

d. Para 10. You may wish to make the point that detailed studies of boat and tube mixes have still to be done. The 5 boat, 16 tube solution put forward in this paragraph will do very well as a working assumption, but it must not be set in concrete. There are many simplifications in the paragraph; nowhere more than in the last sentence, where many factors such as number of boats, damage criteria, ABM defences, decoys, and MIRVs are left out.

CHIEF OF DEFENCE

DATE 12.7.79

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e. Para 12. You are aware that the Politico-Military Talks in Paris on 13 July will include some discussion of this question. It is expected to be exploratory, and probably cosmetic.

f. Paras 16-20 appear to be an excellent statement and line covering this part of the problem.

g. Annex A, para 1. Mr Vance is expected to make this statement in writing to the Foreign Affairs Committee very shortly.

*JRH*

J R HILL  
Commodore  
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12 July 1979

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