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DRAFT MINUTE FROM SECRETARY OF STATE TO PRIME MINISTER:  
COPIES TO HOME SECRETARY, FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY,  
CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER AND SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

BRITISH NUCLEAR TEST PROGRAMME

Preparations for the second 1981 British underground nuclear test at the American Nevada Test Site, which you approved as part of the 1980/81 programme in early 1980, are now well advanced to meet a revised planned firing date of about 19 November 1981. This is about one month later than we had originally envisaged and the adjustment in the timing, which has no adverse effect on our own warhead programme, has been necessary to avoid a clash with the US testing schedules.

2. You will recall that the second test in the 1980/81 programme is aimed at investigating further the feasibility of mechanisms for switching the nuclear yield of warheads for theatre applications. The test device, codenamed LUTE, and the associated equipment has been transported to Nevada and it is expected that it will be moved to the emplacement hole on about 16 October 1981. Before this date, we have to give final clearance for the test to take place and, subject to your agreement, I propose to issue an appropriate authorisation.

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