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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
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February 9, 1984

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ROBERT C. McFARLANE *RCM* BY *RR* ~~RR~~ NARA, DATE 3/28/00
SUBJECT: Cable from Prime Minister Thatcher on Her Visit
to Hungary

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NLS F96-107 #270

Prime Minister Thatcher sent you a cable (Tab A) which provides some impressions of her recent trip to Hungary (February 2 - 4). The visit, her first to Eastern Europe, was devoted largely to international issues.

Mrs. Thatcher's primary message was that "the West, in general, and you personally were absolutely sincere in the desire to achieve arms reductions and security at a lower level of weaponry." The Hungarians, including Party First Secretary Janos Kadar, emphasized the need to foster East-West negotiation and cooperation. They asserted that progress could be achieved if both sides took into account the justified concerns of each side and sought to implement policies predicated on mutual interests.

Mrs. Thatcher's main impressions formed from this visit are:

- Hungary's economic experiment has been conducted within strict limits -- controlled press, single political party, state ownership of all but the smallest economic units -- and these conditions will not change. Thus, she concluded that the West needs "to find a way of living side by side with the communist system, repugnant as it is."
- She is convinced that we are more likely to make progress on arms control negotiations if we first establish a broader basis of understanding between East and West. In this regard, she is considering plans for Foreign Minister Howe to meet with Gromyko in the next few months.

In the cable, the Prime Minister also noted that she looks forward to her upcoming exchange with Vice President Bush. We have asked the Vice President to thank Mrs. Thatcher on your behalf for her insightful cable.

Prepared by:
Paula Dobriensky

Attachment:

Tab A Cable from Mrs. Thatcher, dated February 8, 1984

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Declassify on: OADR

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