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November 22, 1984

Dear Margaret:

As you know, we have sought to bring greater stability to our relations with the Soviet Union, and as part of that, to resume a serious arms control dialogue with them. This was the purpose of my inviting Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko to meet with me at the White House in September and the subject of a number of letters I have exchanged with Soviet Chairman Chernenko.

I'm pleased to be able to report to you that the Soviet side has now indicated to us that they are ready to enter into new negotiations with the objective of reaching mutually acceptable agreements on the whole range of questions concerning nuclear and outer space arms. The Soviets have proposed a meeting be held between Foreign Minister Gromyko and Secretary of State Shultz in the first half of January to reach a common understanding as to the subject and objectives of these negotiations. We told the Soviets that Secretary Shultz would be pleased to meet with Mr. Gromyko. The date and venue for such talks have now been agreed through diplomatic channels. A brief statement will be issued November 22nd announcing that our two governments have agreed to enter into new negotiations and that our two Foreign Ministers will meet in Geneva on January 7 and 8, 1985.

I'm sure that you will be as pleased at this news as I am to be informing you of it. The strength and solidarity of the West is one of the reasons the Soviets have now decided to return to the negotiating table. I recognize that what we have achieved is not an end to itself. We are renewing the difficult process of negotiating verifiable arms control agreements with the Soviet Union. For our part, we will be prepared to discuss all arms control topics, including strategic and intermediate-range nuclear systems and outer space.

As we resume the negotiating process, I want to assure you that we will continue to pay the closest attention to the security interests of our friends and allies, particularly on the subject of INF. The Secretary of State will be prepared to consult on these questions at the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels next month.

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I pledge to you today my unswerving dedication to reaching agreements which will reduce the nuclear threat and enhance the security of all our nations. I continue to count on your advice and firm support as we proceed with this vital work.

Sincerely,

/S/
Ron

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