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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 306 OF 1 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE MANILA (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY)

MY TELNO 303: POSSIBLE VISIT OF PRESIDENT REAGAN TO THE U.K.

1. DEEVER GOT INTO TOUCH WITH ME FIRST THING THIS MORNING AND ASKED TO COME AND SEE ME, WHICH HE HAS JUST DONE.

2. HE SAID THAT HE HAD HAD SOME DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWING OUR TALK OVER THE WEEKEND ABOUT A POSSIBLE VISIT TO ENGLAND. IT WOULD BE IDEAL IF THE NATO SUMMIT COULD BE HELD IN LONDON BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT COULD THEN GO THERE WITHOUT INCITING ENVY IN OTHER COUNTRIES. HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GO TRAVELLING TO MANY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

3. I SAID THAT, ON THE BASIS OF ADVANCE INFORMATION GIVEN ME, I DID NOT THINK THAT IT WOULD BE AT ALL EASY TO HAVE THE NATO SUMMIT IN LONDON. MANY COUNTRIES WERE ASSUMING THAT IT WAS GOING TO TAKE PLACE IN BRUSSELS. THEY WOULD PROBABLY PREFER TO SEE THE PRESIDENT THERE AT THE NATO HEADQUARTERS RATHER THAN IN ONE COUNTRY'S CAPITAL.

4. DEEVER REPLIED THAT WE MUST THEN LOOK AT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PRESIDENT GOING TO LONDON IN THE GAP BETWEEN THE END OF THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT ON SUNDAY 6 JUNE AND THE START OF THE NATO SUMMIT ON WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE. HE WOULD ONLY BE SPENDING A NUMBER OF HOURS IN ROME. HE DID NOT INTEND STAYING THE NIGHT THERE. I SUGGESTED THAT HE MIGHT FLY TO LONDON ON THE EVENING OF SUNDAY 6TH, HAVING VISITED ROME THAT AFTERNOON. HE WOULD THEN PROCEED FROM THE AIRPORT TO WINDSOR CASTLE, WHICH WAS A VERY SHORT DISTANCE. HE COULD SPEND A QUIET EVENING WITH HER MAJESTY. HE COULD PLAN TO FLY ON TO BRUSSELS ON THE WEDNESDAY. THIS WOULD GIVE HIM TWO FURTHER NIGHTS AT WINDSOR CASTLE.

5. DEEVER ASKED ME WHAT SORT OF PROGRAMME I THOUGHT WOULD BE SUITABLE. IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE TIME TO BE BRIEFED ON THE FORTHCOMING NATO MEETING. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE SOME RELAXATION. HE REALISED THAT HE WOULD NEED TO MAKE SOME SUITABLE PUBLIC APPEARANCE. I SAID THAT ON A PURELY PERSONAL BASIS I THOUGHT THAT HE MIGHT TAKE MONDAY MORNING EASILY AND GO FOR A RIDE IN WINDSOR GREAT PARK. DEEVER ASKED EAGERLY WHETHER HER MAJESTY WOULD BE THINKING OF RIDING WITH THE PRESIDENT. ON MONDAY EVENING I THOUGHT THAT THERE MIGHT BE A DANQUET GIVEN BY HER MAJESTY EITHER AT WINDSOR CASTLE OR BUCKINGHAM PALACE. THEN ON THE TUESDAY IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD MAKE SOME PUBLIC SPEECH. I DID NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE TO REPEAT THE OCCASION OF A JOINT MEETING OF PARLIAMENT IN ST STEPHEN'S HALL

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SUCH AS THAT ADDRESSED BY DE GAULLE JUST OVER 20 YEARS AGO. NOR DID I KNOW WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO TELEVISE SUCH A SESSION. DEAVER ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT DO A RECEPTION AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AFTER SOME SUCH APPEARANCE BUT HE DID NOT THINK THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HAVE A DINNER AT THE EMBASSY, THOUGH NO DOUBT THE US AMBASSADOR WOULD PRESS FOR ONE.

6. DEAVER ASKED WHETHER THE QUEEN WOULD BE ABLE TO COPE WITH THE SIZE OF THE PARTY THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE TO HAVE WITH HIM. THE NUMBERS ALONGSIDE HIM DID NOT HAVE TO BE ALL THAT EXORBITANT. NEVERTHELESS HE WOULD REQUIRE 5 OR 6 ROOMS IN ADDITION TO THE ONE FOR MRS REAGAN AND HIMSELF. THERE WOULD ALSO OF COURSE BE A LARGE SECURITY FOLLOWING. AS FOR THE JOURNALISTS, THEY WOULD OF COURSE BE THERE IN HUNDREDS BUT DEAVER ASSUMED THEY COULD BE ACCOMMODATED IN THE TOWN OF WINDSOR OR EVEN IN LONDON. I TOLD HIM THAT LONDON REALLY WAS A VERY EASY DISTANCE FROM WINDSOR CASTLE. DEAVER SAID THAT HE ASSUMED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO GO BETWEEN WINDSOR CASTLE AND LONDON, WHETHER TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE OR WINFIELD HOUSE, BY HELICOPTER.

7. I SPOKE AGAIN ABOUT THE VALUE TO THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF OF A VISIT OF THIS KIND. HE HAD NOT DONE MUCH TRAVELLING AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO GET ACROSS TO A WIDER BODY OF OPINION. DEAVER SAID HE ENTIRELY AGREED. HE VERY MUCH LIKED THE IDEAS WE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING AND HE WOULD GO INTO THEM AGAIN WITH THOSE CONCERNED AND GET INTO TOUCH WITH ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

8. I DO NOT THINK THERE IS ANYTHING FURTHER FOR YOU TO DO AT THIS STAGE. WITH ANY LUCK WE WILL GET THE VISIT TO THE UK EVEN WITHOUT HAVING THE NATO SUMMIT THERE, THOUGH I SUSPECT THAT AL HAIG MAY WELL POINT OUT THAT THIS COULD CAUSE TROUBLE WITH THE GERMANS. I SENSE THAT THE WHITE HOUSE ARE AT LAST QUITE FIRED BY THE IDEA OF GOING TO LONDON. IF YOU CAN GIVE ME SOME IDEA OF WHETHER A MEETING OF PARLIAMENT IN ST STEPHEN'S HALL WOULD BE POSSIBLE OR NOT, THAT WOULD BE USEFUL, HOWEVER TENTATIVE YOUR VIEW.

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