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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT

GISCARD D'ESTAING 25.4.80.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 92^{AA}/80

Prime Minister: I promised to telephone, Mr. President, after what we said last evening but I think from what Mr. Wahl said its not really necessary for Sir Donald Maitland to come over now because we have a telegram in from our Ambassador which gives more details than we had from Signor Cossiga.

President: Have you a long talk with Signor Cossiga?

Prime Minister: A long talk, yes he was here for about two and a half hours and the only concern was that we wondered whether we had got the proposals quite right. But I think we have and I don't/there will be any need to clarify them by a personal visit.

President: Do you think after Mr. Cossiga's sounding that there can be some work done on the Community basis before the sunday meeting?

Prime Minister: Well I expect Signor Cossiga will telephone but I left him, we left with the suggestion that there should be two groups working: One, the permanent officials of the Agricultural Ministers working, and also Signor Ruggiero's group so that there should be people working on the agricultural crisis and people working on the financial aspects and then we suggested that the Agriculture Ministers should also go to Luxembourg. But I am sure he will wish to tell you that himself.

President: Yes I am a little surprised not to have had news from him because he was supposed to inform us and of course if he wants to have meetings arranged for Saturday, the time is very short.

Prime Minister: Yes. I asked him if he would like to telephone you from here but he wanted to get to Brussels, and I think he, we are of course an hour behind you in time and so he should now, by now, have arrived in Brussels and I think therefore that he will be contacting you urgently.

President: Ah yes.

/ Prime Minister

Prime Minister: But that I think will be what he will say. That is it necessary to get the preparatory work done and in two groups.

President: On the whole how did you consider your talk with him as rather positive or can you . . .

Prime Minister: We were very interested in the new proposals - the figures of course have still to be attached to them. But we were interested in the principles and therefore wanted more work done on them. Otherwise I am afraid its been a very difficult day has it not?

President: Yes of course we are very sorry for the Americans.

Prime Minister: So am I.

? President: Well of course they have no responsibility to say that it is hard and humiliating for them and for us and we would refrain from any criticism though I am afraid the press will be rather sharp on them.

Prime Minister: Yes. Yes.

President: Yes well it is a pity because we understand very well why they tried but of course the way it has been handled is not so

Prime Minister: Yes I'm very sorry for him indeed because the humiliation has deepened but we will be able to talk about these things in Luxembourg.

President: Yes I hope that we will save the dinner of Sunday and also it is expected we will have breakfast on Monday morning just between Helmut Schmidt you and I.

Prime Minister: Right. I had not known that but of course.

President: Yes I think Helmut will probably arrange this, to have a conversation on this as well as other.

/ Prime Minister

Prime Minister: I welcome that idea.

President: I heard you have a meeting tonight.

Prime Minister: Yes I am going straight up to my constituency now but I wanted to speak to you beforehand.

President: Yes well thank you.

Prime Minister: Thank you very much.

President: If Mr. Cossiga suggests that there is work to be done it will certainly be our idea to contribute.

Prime Minister: Yes well.

President: Yes well have a good evening in your constituency.

Prime Minister: Thank you very much.

President: And I'll see you on Sunday.

Prime Minister: Yes thank you. Goodbye.