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TELEGRAM NUMBER 649 OF 23 FEBRUARY

FOLLOWING FOR ALEXANDER, NO 10, FROM WITNEY  
PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

1. THE AMBASSADOR'S REVISION OF THE DRAFT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AT THE EMBASSY DINNER HAS BEEN SENT TO YOU BY HAND OF PILOT, AND SHOULD REACH YOU TOMORROW (TUESDAY) MORNING.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AMBASSADOR'S REDRAFT OF THE WHITE HOUSE DINNER SPEECH:

1. I STARTED THIS LONG, MOMENTOUS AND AGREEABLE DAY ON YOUR LAWN, MR PRESIDENT, IN WEATHER THAT I AM SURE WAS INTENDED TO MAKE ME FEEL AT HOME SQUARE BRACKETS BEGIN OR, IF VERY FINE, QUOTE IN WEATHER THAT, WHEN IT OCCURS FOR SOME PUBLIC OCCASION WITH US, WE DESCRIBE AS ROYAL WEATHER UNQUOTE SQUARE BRACKETS END; AND IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO END THE DAY IN YOUR HOUSE AT THIS GLITTERING DINNER PARTY OF GUESTS OF YOU AND MRS REAGAN.

2. ALTHOUGH I HAVE HEARD MUCH OF YOUR PROWESS AS A SPEAKER, IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PLEASURE TO HEAR YOU SPEAK; AND I WAS MUCH MOVED BY WHAT YOU HAVE JUST SAID.

3. I AM TOLD, MR PRESIDENT, THAT WHEN YOU AND MRS REAGAN WERE INSPECTING YOUR NEW HOME, WHERE WE ARE DINING THIS EVENING, TO SEE WHAT REFURBISHMENT WAS NEEDED, YOU CAME ACROSS SOME CHARRED AREAS - THE VESTIGES OF CERTAIN HEATED EVENTS OF 1812. I DO NOT THINK I NEED APOLOGISE FOR THEM BECAUSE I AM RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT MRS REAGAN SAW IN THIS, NOT A SOURCE OF HISTORICAL REPROACH, BUT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONAL REDECORATION.

4. ALTHOUGH I MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO SPEAK FOR LORD CARRINGTON - PEER OF THE REALM AS HE IS - I AM SURE THAT HE WOULD JOIN ME IN THANKING YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY. I SHOULD ADD SOMETHING ABOUT LORD CARRINGTON. YOU HAVE RECENTLY CELEBRATED YOUR BICENTENARY. WELL, OUR FOREIGN SECRETARY IS ABOUT TO CELEBRATE HIS. IT WILL SHORTLY BE 200 YEARS SINCE THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SECRETARY WAS FIRST CREATED. OUR FIRST FOREIGN SECRETARY WAS CHARLES JAMES FOX, A GREAT SUPPORTER OF AMERICA, AS YOU MAY KNOW, BUT NOT A MAN WHOM THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE DAY FOUND EASY TO HAVE IN HIS CABINET, OR TO GET RID OF FROM IT. WHEN LORD NORTH WANTED TO REMOVE HIM - AND I PASS THIS ADVICE ON IN CASE IT IS OF ANY USE TO YOU AT ANY

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TIME, MR PRESIDENT - HE COULD NOT BRING HIMSELF TO FIRE FOX DIRECTLY, SO HE SENT HIM A NOTE WHICH READ, I QUOTE: QUOTE I ENCLOSE A LIST OF MY NEW CABINET. I DO NOT SEE YOUR NAME AMONG THEM. UNQUOTE. LORD CARRINGTON'S OPPOSITE NUMBER, MR SECRETARY HAIG, IS WELL-KNOWN TO US IN EUROPE FROM HIS TIME AS SACEUR: I HOPE HE WILL NOT MIND ME SAYING THAT WE THINK HE UNDERSTANDS US. WE CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND THE GREAT BURDEN THAT HE BEARS - AND BEARS WITH SUCH APLOMB. A VERY DIFFERENT SORT OF TASK FROM THAT OF ONE OF HIS PREDECESSORS OF THE LAST CENTURY, JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, ABOUT WHOM THE BRITISH ENVOY TO WASHINGTON AT THE TIME WROTE: QUOTE THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS BEEN SEEN IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING FLOATING DOWN THE POTOMAC WITH A BLACK CAP ON HIS HEAD AND A PAIR OF GREEN GOGGLES ON HIS EYES UNQUOTE - NOT THE SORT OF THING OUR PRESENT ENVOY TO WASHINGTON IS WRITING, I ASSURE YOU, ABOUT YOUR PRESENT SECRETARY OF STATE.

5. MR PRESIDENT, THIS IS NOT THE OCCASION FOR ME TO TALK AT LENGTH ABOUT OUR VARIOUS PROBLEMS OR THE GREAT HOPES PLACED UPON YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY BY THE DEMOCRATIC WORLD. YOUR COUNTRY TRADITIONALLY - AND YOU HAVE TRADITIONS AS OLD AS OURS - TACKLES PROBLEMS WITH SUCH GUSTO AND CONFIDENCE THAT ALL THE WORLD HAS CONFIDENCE THAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING THAT YOU SET YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS TO.

6. BUT WHAT I WANTED TO SINGLE OUT TONIGHT IN THIS GREAT SETTING, BEFORE YOU, MR PRESIDENT, AT THE OUTSET OF YOUR TENURE, IS THE NEW ATTITUDE WHICH WE AS LEADERS OF OUR COUNTRIES ARE SEEKING TO APPLY TO THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND THE RELATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLES. IT WOULD BE WRONG TO DRAW CLOSE PARALLELS BETWEEN THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SCENE AND THAT IN THE UK BECAUSE SO MANY THINGS ABOUT THEM ARE SO DIFFERENT. BUT WHAT IS SIMILAR AND WHAT IS NEW IN BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE UK AT THE PRESENT TIME IS THAT WE ARE TRYING TO APPROACH THIS PROBLEM OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE IN A SIMILAR FASHION - NOT ONE THAT IS NEW OR REVOLUTIONARY BUT ONE THAT IS BASED ON FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR.

7. MR PRESIDENT, I HAVE JUST A SUSPICION THAT YOU WILL BE AGREEING WITH ME IN WHAT I AM SAYING. PERHAPS YOU MAY THINK I AM PLAGIARIZING THE PRINCIPLES OF REAGANOMICS. I MAY EVEN CATCH THE WHISPER FROM YOU QUOTE THERE YOU GO AGAIN EXCLAM UNQUOTE BUT I KNOW THAT I NEED HARDLY TELL YOU THAT THE TASK OF CHANGING ENTRENCHED ATTITUDES IS A DIFFICULT ONE. I HAVE NEVER PRETENDED OTHERWISE. IN BRITAIN'S CASE WE HAVE SET OURSELVES TO REVERSE THE DECADES OF RELATIVE INDUSTRIAL DECLINE, AND TO RELEASE THE REAL ENERGIES OF THE PRODUCTIVE SECTOR, IN THE FIRST PLACE AND ABOVE ALL BY CONQUERING THE CRIPPLING FORCES OF INFLATION. THERE IS NOW EVERY SIGN THAT WE ARE WINNING THAT BATTLE. THE COST IS HEAVY, ABOVE ALL IN TERMS OF THE PRESENT LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT. BUT WE DO NOT SOLVE THAT

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PROBLEM BY THROWING PUBLIC MONEY AT IT, WHATEVER THE SHORT-TERM  
ATTRactions. WE CAN ONLY SECURE A TRUE SOLUTION WITH A REVITALISED  
ECONOMY THAT WILL PROVIDE REAL JOBS OF LONG-TERM ECONOMIC  
VALIDITY. THAT IS OUR GOAL AND WE ARE GOING TO STICK TO IT.  
NOW, ABOVE ALL, IS THE TIME TO STAY ON COURSE. NOT LEAST BECAUSE  
ONLY A FIRMLY-BASED ECONOMY CAN ENABLE US TO ACT AS A STRONG  
AND EFFECTIVE PARTNER IN OUR ALLIANCE; AND THAT ENDURING ALLIANCE  
WITH THE UNITED STATES IS FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR BELIEFS AND OUR  
OBJECTIVES.

8. MR PRESIDENT, I BELIEVE THAT NEVER IN THE POST-WAR YEARS HAS  
THAT ALLIANCE BEEN MORE ESSENTIAL TO US ALL. NEARLY 50 YEARS AGO  
WINSTON CHURCHILL TOLD OUR TWO COUNTRIES THAT TOGETHER THERE IS  
NO PROBLEM THAT WE CANNOT SOLVE. WE ARE TOGETHER; TOGETHER, LET  
US PROVE HIM RIGHT.

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COPIES TO  
 MR ALEXANDER  
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