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TO IMMEDIATE CAPE TOWN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 152 OF 21 MARCH

YOUR TELNO 243: PRIME MINISTER'S EMISSARY

1. LORD HUNT, WHO WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, WILL TRAVEL BY SA 231 (ETA CAPE TOWN 1005 6 APRIL). ON ARRIVAL THEY PROPOSE TO HIRE A CAR AND DRIVE TO GEORGE TO SPEND SUNDAY AND MONDAY NIGHTS WITH FRIENDS. THEY DO NOT THEREFORE NEED TO BE MET ON ARRIVAL. SHOULD YOU NEED TO CONTACT LORD HUNT AT GEORGE HE WILL BE STAYING WITH MR AND MRS CRAIG (TELEPHONE GEORGE (441) 5587).

2. THE HUNTS WILL RETURN TO CAPE TOWN ON 8 APRIL AND GRATEFULLY ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION TO STAY WITH YOU. LORD HUNT WILL KEEP WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY FREE FOR HIS MAIN BUSINESS. THE PRUDENTIAL WILL HOWEVER BE TELLING THEIR CAPE TOWN OFFICE THAT THEY CAN ARRANGE A PROGRAMME FOR HIM ON FRIDAY. THEY WILL ADD THAT HE IS STAYING WITH YOU SINCE YOU ARE AN OLD FRIEND, AND THAT SINCE HE HAS OTHER BUSINESS ENGAGEMENTS TO FIT IN THEY SHOULD LET YOU KNOW WHAT THEY ARE ARRANGING FOR HIM. THIS SHOULD ENABLE YOU, IF NECESSARY, TO KEEP A SHORT SLOT FOR A POSSIBLE FINAL SESSION WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT DAY. WE HAVE HOWEVER SOME RESERVATIONS OURSELVES, ON SECURITY GROUNDS, ABOUT THE IDEA OF A SEPARATE SESSION WITH PIK BOTHA, GENERAL MALAN AND FOURIE. IF LORD HUNT'S TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WERE TO LEAK WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PRESENT IT AS A COURTESY CALL WHILE IN CAPE TOWN FOR OTHER BUSINESS. BUT A SESSION WITH THE OTHER THREE ALSO MIGHT BE MORE DIFFICULT TO PRESENT. IF THEY REALLY WANT A SEPARATE SESSION WITH HUNT, WOULD IT BE BETTER TO DRESS IT UP AS A SOCIAL OCCASION, PERHAPS AT YOUR RESIDENCE?

3. PLEASE NOTE ONE POINT CAREFULLY ABOUT THE PRUDENTIAL ASPECT. A VISIT BY A UK DIRECTOR (AND ESPECIALLY A NEWLY-APPOINTED ONE) WOULD HARDLY BE JUSTIFIED SOLELY ON ITS OWN ACCOUNT JUST NOW. THE PRUDENTIAL LINE TO THEIR CAPE TOWN PEOPLE WILL THEREFORE BE THAT LORD HUNT IS THERE FOR OTHER UNSPECIFIED BUSINESS INTERESTS

(BUT WITH NO HINT ABOUT THE REAL REASON) AND WANTS TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THEM ALSO.

4. THE HUNTS WILL LEAVE FOR JOHANNESBURG ON 12 APRIL AND VISIT THE PRUDENTIAL OFFICE THERE ON 14 APRIL, RETURNING TO LONDON FROM JOHANNESBURG BY BA 050 THAT NIGHT.

CARRINGTON

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SIR D MAITLAND

SIR L ALLINSON

MR DAY

HD/RHODESIA DEPT

HD/NEWS DEPT

HD/PUSD

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CABINET OFFICE

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QRS 310
SECRET

FM FCO 131734Z MAR 80
TO IMMEDIATE CAPE TOWN
TEL NO 140 OF 13 MARCH 1980

South Africa 14.
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PRIME MINISTERS EMISSARY

1. PLEASE INFORM MR PW BOTHA THROUGH WHATEVER CHANNEL YOU THINK APPROPRIATE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE SENDING LORD HUNT OF TAMWORTH (FORMERLY SIR JOHN HUNT, SECRETARY TO THE CABINET) AS HER EMISSARY. YOU SHOULD ENQUIRE WHETHER MR BOTHA WOULD BE FREE FOR THE TALKS WITH LORD HUNT EITHER AT THE BEGINNING OR AT THE END OF THE WEEK BEGINNING 7 APRIL (LORD HUNT'S COMMITMENTS MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO COME EARLIER). FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION LORD HUNT IS FREE TO TRAVEL FROM 3 APRIL ONWARDS AND MUST BE BACK IN LONDON ON 15 APRIL. IN ORDER TO ENABLE LORD HUNT TO HAVE MAXIMUM IMPACT ON THE SOUTH AFRICANS OVER NAMIBIA THERE WOULD BE ADVANTAGE IN TRYING TO STEER THE SOUTH AFRICANS TOWARDS THE EARLY PART OF THE WEEK WHEN THEY MAY STILL NOT HAVE CONVEYED THEIR DECISION ON THE DMZ TO URQUHART. WHENEVER THE TALKS WITH PW BOTHA TAKE PLACE, LORD HUNT WISHES TO HAVE TIME FOR A FULL BACKGROUND BRIEFING FROM YOU BEFOREHAND. HE MUST ALSO HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR PRIVATE MEETINGS IN CAPE TOWN AND JOHANNESBURG (SEE PARA 2 BELOW).

2. THE OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF LORD HUNT'S VISIT WILL BE TO VISIT PERSONAL FRIENDS AND TO HAVE MEETINGS IN CONNECTION WITH HIS DIRECTORSHIP OF THE PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY (AND HE WILL IN FACT BE DOING SOME PRUDENTIAL BUSINESS WHILE IN SOUTH AFRICA). PLEASE SUGGEST TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT IF LORD HUNT'S CALL ON MR PW BOTHA ATTRACTS ATTENTION, THEY AND YOU WILL TAKE THE LINE THAT YOU AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAD HEARD OF LORD HUNT'S VISIT ON PRUDENTIAL BUSINESS AND IN VIEW OF HIS EMINENCE AS A FORMER SECRETARY TO THE CABINET, THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER HAD INVITED HIM TO PAY A COURTESY CALL FOR AN INFORMAL CHAT, AS HE DOES WITH OTHER DISTINGUISHED VISITORS. THE JOHANNESBURG AND CAPE TOWN OFFICES OF THE PRUDENTIAL HAVE NOT YET HEARD ABOUT LORD HUNT'S VISIT AND NOTHING SHOULD BE SAID TO THEM ABOUT IT FOR THE MOMENT.

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