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Prime Minister

FM FCO 291419Z JUNE 79

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TO IMMEDIATE CANBERRA

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 275 OF 29 JUNE

FOLLOWING FOR WHITMORE FROM SANDERS, DOWNING STREET

JOHN HOSKYNS HAS BEEN PURSUING THE QUESTION OF MR PRIOR'S
PROPOSED SPEECH WITH HIM. FOLLOWING IS A MINUTE FROM JOHN
HOSKYNS REPORTING THE RESULT.

QUOTE: FOLLOWING YOUR REPLY TO MY EARLIER MINUTE, I HAD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EMPLOYMENT LAST NIGHT. HE FEELS THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL WE SHOULD STEP UP OUR EFFORTS TO COMMUNICATE THE MESSAGE TO THE UNIONS. HOWEVER, HE MAKES TWO POINTS. FIRST, HE THINKS THAT THE MESSAGE WOULD HAVE MORE IMPACT IF IT COULD BE LINKED TO OTHER POSITIVE PROPOSALS ON PAY BARGAINING, FOR EXAMPLE THE FORUM. HE FEELS THAT AN ISOLATED STATEMENT MIGHT MAKE LITTLE IMPACT. SECOND, HE BELIEVES THAT A CONCERTED EFFORT OVER SEVERAL WEEKS, WITH YOURSELF, THE CHANCELLOR AND HIMSELF REPEATEDLY PUTTING ACROSS THE MESSAGE, IS REQUIRED.

HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH YOU AND THE CHANCELLOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND WILL PROBABLY RAISE IT AT THE NEXT E COMMITTEE.

NORMAN STRAUSS AND I WILL GENERATE SOME IDEAS ON HOW WE MIGHT GIVE THE MESSAGE FRESH IMPACT. UNQUOTE.

CARRINGTON

NNNN

*Do you
agree?*

- Mon 9 July.