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H. Smith
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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN LORD CARRINGTON AND MR. VANCE
ON MONDAY 19 NOVEMBER 1979

Mr. Whitmore: Mr. Vance, it's the Prime Minister's Private Secretary. I'm just going to get Lord Carrington who's in a meeting with President Giscard and the Prime Minister at the moment. But this will only take two seconds. Can you hold on?

Mr. Vance: Sure.

Lord Carrington: Cy, I'm so sorry to have kept you waiting. We are in a meeting with President Giscard.

Mr. Vance: I realise that.

Lord Carrington: What a perfectly awful time you're having.

Mr. Vance: Well, it really is a ghastly time, Peter. We've got a large number of different channels that we are pursuing. But it's extremely difficult as you can see.

Lord Carrington: I can see. It's difficult to see exactly what you can do that's going to make things better and not worse.

Mr. Vance: That's right. The President told me about his talk with the Prime Minister and the fact that the Group may be meeting, I guess in the next day or two.

Lord Carrington: We're meeting tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Vance: And will probably be issuing a statement.

Lord Carrington: We're drafting it now.

Mr. Vance: That's what the President just asked me to check with you for a moment about. This would be very helpful. Obviously we will say nothing about it but it will be extremely helpful, Peter, if a good strong statement could be made.

Lord Carrington: What we've got Cy is, I've got Francois Poncet here too and we've had a talk since the President rang up. He's got his political director here and I've got mine. And they are at the moment drafting a statement about blackmail and hostages and all the rest of it. And if Jean and I can agree this I don't myself think there will be much difficult in getting the other seven to come along. And we would then issue that tomorrow.

Mr. Vance: That would be great. Also I think the trial aspect of it, if that could be specifically commented on.

Lord Carrington: The what?

Mr. Vance: The trial, their threats of trying these people.

Lord Carrington: The trial, yes, yes, sure. I think we ought certainly to say that.

Mr. Vance: The trial of the hostages particularly.

Lord Carrington: Yes, certainly. It ought to come out, you see, probably in the afternoon here, which ought to be morning your time. It will be quite good from that point of view.

Mr. Vance: That would be just splendid.

Lord Carrington: Did the President talk to Helmut?

Mr. Vance: He has not reached him but he was trying to get through to him.

Lord Carrington: I think it would be quite helpful because if he gets us three alongside we will telegraph the text of what we suggest to Hans-Dietrich, and if the President's already spoken I think that would be helpful.

Mr. Vance: He is going to get through to him today, either this morning or at the latest, some time in the afternoon but he is trying to press the call.

Lord Carrington: OK. Is there anything we can do, Cy, other than that?

Mr. Vance: You are doing everything you can at this point, Peter.

Lord Carrington: It's very difficult to see how else we could help.

Mr. Vance: I think you're doing everything, quite frankly but if there is anything further we won't hesitate to get in touch with you.

Lord Carrington: Yes, we'll do what we can. You know that.

Mr. Vance: I know that. Let me congratulate you, Peter, on how magnificently you and the Prime Minister are handling the Lancaster House thing.

Lord Carrington: Well, we're not quite home and dry yet, I'm afraid. We had a meeting this morning in which they put in some impossible terms for the cease-fire. But what I'm going to try and do is to get the thing wrapped up by the end of the week because if you can't get a cease-fire by the end of the week you can't get one at all. So, we've just got to do our best. We can't let it break now.

Mr. Vance: Right, I quite agree on that.

Lord Carrington: And I don't think they'll let it break now. But the only way, they'll argue here until January. The only way is to bring them up against reality.

Mr. Vance: I agree with you and I think that they will not let it drop having come this far.

Lord Carrington: I hope not. Then God alone knows what would happen. Fasten your seat belt. Let's hope for the best, Cy. Anyway, the best of luck in what you're doing and our thoughts are with you. Many thanks for ringing. Goodbye.

Mr. Vance: Goodbye.