PS

PS/LPS

PS/MR HURD

PS/MR LUCE

PS/PUS

MR DAY

MR URE

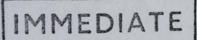
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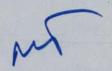
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HD/NEWS DEPT

CONFIDENTIAL FM WASHINGTON 121447Z FEB 82 TO IMMEDIATE FCO TELEGRAM NO 466 OF 12 FEBRUARY

PS/SIR R ARMSTRONG, CABINET OFFICE PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST.





MY TELNO 454: PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT

1. I SAW CLARK AT A PARTY AT THE WHITE HOUSE LAST NIGHT AND WE TALKED ABOUT THE PROGRAMME, HE EXPLAINED THAT THE DECISION AGAINST AN ADDRESS TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT HAD BEEN TAKEN MORE BY THOSE AROUND THE PRESIDENT THAN BY THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF. I SAID THAT THE PROGRAMME WOULD BE DISCUSSED NEXT WEEK BY DEAVER IN LONDON AND IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL FOR ME TO MAKE FURTHER SUGGESTIONS AT THIS STAGE. BUT I DID EXPRESS THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD APPEAR BEFORE THE PUBLIC, EVEN FOR A SHORT TIME, AT SOME STAGE DURING HIS VISIT TO ENGLAND. IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO MAKE A LONG PREPARED SPEECH. I MENTIONED THE IDEA OF A JOINT APPEARANCE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OUTSIDE NO 10. CLARK SEEMED TO THINK THAT THIS WOULD CERTAINLY BE A GOOD IDEA. HE WAS ALSO TEMPTED TO RE-OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME APPEARANCE, THOUGH A BRIEF ONE, AT PARLIAMENT. IF HE RETURNS TO THE CHARGE WITH ME I WILL SUGGEST THAT THE SUBJECT BE DISCUSSED BY DEAVER IN LONDON.

2. LATER I HAD A WORD WITH THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF AND IT WAS APPARENT THAT HE HAD ONLY THE VAGUEST KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROGRAMME. MRS REAGAN SEEMED MUCH MORE CLUED UP.

3. I THINK THAT THE MORAL OF THIS IS THAT IF YOU DO NOT LIKE SOME OF THE THINGS BEING SUGGESTED OR VETOED BY DEAVER IN LONDON, THIS NEED NOT NECESSARILY BE THE LAST WORD, WE COULD ALWAYS GET AT THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF THROUGH CLARK. THE LATTER WILL BE ACCOMPANYING

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3. I THINK THAT THE MORAL OF THIS IS THAT IF YOU DO NOT LIKE SOME OF THE THINGS BEING SUGGESTED OR VETOED BY DEAVER IN LONDON, THIS NEED NOT NECESSARILY BE THE LAST WORD. WE COULD ALWAYS GET AT THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF THROUGH CLARK. THE LATTER WILL BE ACCOMPANYING THE PRESIDENT THROUGHOUT THE TRIP, AND EVIDENTLY HOPES TO BE IN ON (UNDERLINE NEXT TWO WORDS) THE RIDE.

HENDERSON

NNNN