

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT

ADVANCE COPIES

(x12)

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PS/SIR R ARMSTRONG, CABINET OFFICE

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST.

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 121447Z FEB 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NO 466 OF 12 FEBRUARY

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 DEEVER 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 DEEVER 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 DEEVER 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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HENDERSON

NNNN