



Confidential, to Heads of
Mission.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4th June '82

John Cotes esq

no 10

Dear John,

Here with a

note of a speech for
the PM at the lunch.

I realize

the way we work the
bracketed passage in the
first sentence. Yr

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SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT LUNCH FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN, 10 DOWNING STREET, TUESDAY 8 JUNE

CAVEAT.....

Mrs Reagan, Mr President (you notice the order in this house; my attention to equal opportunity, if not to strict protocol). It is a great honour and pleasure to have you both to lunch at No. 10, the traditional abode of the Prime Minister.

I realise that you have become accustomed recently to taking your meals in grander places - Versailles Palace and Windsor Castle. But as you can see, this is a very simple house, with the front-door - the only door in fact - leading into the street. We have no long gravel drive. I notice that visitors from abroad find this very democratic. Particularly when they can see on the doorstep outside, as they can every morning, the row of milk bottles just delivered, the essential logistics for the tea-ritual by which the British machinery of Government has been lubricated down the ages.

I should like to extend a special welcome to you, Mrs Reagan. It is rare enough to have a USA President

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Enclosures—flag(s).....

as a guest at No. 10, but my researches have been unable to turn up when we last had the honour of a First Lady to an official lunch here. But I can assure you that Denis is as delighted as I am; and he is even suggesting that in future he should be referred to in this house as the First Gentleman.

But, seriously, we are delighted to have both of you here as our guests, to repay as best we can the hospitality you bestowed on us when we were your first official guests from abroad in Washington at the beginning of your Presidential term of office.

Much has been said and read over the years, Mr President, about the relations between our two countries. There is no need for me to add to the generalities on the subject today. Because we have had before our eyes in recent weeks the most concrete expression of what in practice we mean to each other. I refer to the impact of the Falklands crisis which has been like a shaft of lightning illuminating half-hidden recesses in our relationship; your awareness of our readiness to resist aggression even at great sacrifice; our awareness of your readiness to give support to us even at considerable cost to American interests.

It is this preparedness on both sides for sacrifices in the common interest that characterises our partnership; and I should like to pay tribute to you Mr President and to you Mr Secretary Haig, whom I also greet here heartily

today, and through you to the American people for your predictably generous response. Believe me, Mr President, we do not take it for granted. We are grateful to the depth of our national being.

I am reminded of the words of your great American poet Emerson on the subject of sacrifice, a mood that fits us both. I quote:

'Tis perdition, ~~perdition~~ to be safe
When for the truth we ought to die.'

Mr President, your mission to London and to other ^{Capitals} states of Europe is a remarkable one, and we are fully conscious both of its symbolism and substance.

From the day you took office you were determined to breathe life into the Alliance. You recognised how central your allies were to America's interests and vice versa - that no country however strong can remain an island in the modern world.

I want you to know how fully we reciprocate your conviction in the need for a dynamic two-way Alliance.

We here also realise, Mr President, what you have done both to increase immediate USA military strength and to reanimate talks on arms reductions - objectives that must go hand in hand.

You have seized the initiative in East-West relations and, seen by us in Western Europe, that is already

a considerable achievement.

May I also signal what above all you stand for in international economic life, your commitment to an open world trade system, whatever the immediate pressures for restriction. That is our role too and we will struggle for it stalwartly beside you.

Let me conclude these few remarks, Mr President - and I realise it is difficult to match your moving speech made in the British Parliament today - by a final word about ourselves, about the inter-dependence of our two countries. I make no apology if they appear personal. But I have found in my three years in this office, as I am sure my predecessors have done - that ~~at the heart of all~~ in the midst of the stream that runs like life-blood between us - tradition, culture, law and language - there is one characteristic that is dominant for those concerned with policy. I refer to our ability to discuss problems of common ^{interest} ~~concern~~, which means of course in today's world practically every issue in public life - to discuss them freely, frankly, not necessarily always agreeing but giving and taking advice as family friends, without commitment and without exciting anxiety or envy. You, Mr President, and you Mr Secretary Haig have certainly always shown this spirit, and dare I say that this is something unique between us, as it is, I feel sure, of ~~an~~ inestimable value to the cause we both serve.

It is in that spirit that I ask you all ladies

/and

and gentlemen to rise and drink a toast to the
President of the United States and Mrs Reagan.