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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 626 OF 21 FEBRUARY

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

1. I THINK WE SHOULD ASSUME THAT THE PRESIDENT, ALTHOUGH VERY POSITIVE IN HIS APPROACH TO THE UK AND VALUING HIS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, MAY NOT HAVE MUCH DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF THE NATURE AND CONTENT OF US/UK RELATIONS. IT MIGHT THEREFORE BE USEFUL FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO MAKE SOME REFERENCE TO THESE AT AN EARLY STAGE, STRESSING THE CLOSENESS OF OUR CONTACTS AND THE VALUE WHICH BOTH SIDES HAVE PUT ON THEM. SHE MIGHT REFER TO

TN (A) THE TRIDENT DECISION AND MORE BROADLY TO NUCLEAR COOPERATION IN THE DEFENCE FIELD, BASED ON THE 1958 AGREEMENT WHICH WAS RENEWED LAST YEAR:

I (B) THE LONGSTANDING AND INTIMATE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE TWO INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITIES, WHICH IS COST-EFFECTIVE AND LAYS THE FOUNDATION FOR A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF MUCH OF WHAT HAPPENS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE:

G (C) COOPERATION RELATING TO WESTERN SECURITY POLICY IN THE GULF AND THE US RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE - BRITAIN'S ROLE AS THE MAJOR AIR-STAGING POINT IN AN EMERGENCY, THE FACILITIES IN DIEGO GARCIA, AND THE UNIQUE BRITISH TIES IN THE GULF REGION:

A (D) EXTENSIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ARMED FORCES THROUGH SECONDMENTS, EXCHANGES AND JOINT TRAINING, INCLUDING LINKS BETWEEN SPECIALIST FORCES.

I (E) COLLABORATION ON DEFENCE EQUIPMENT (DESPITE THE CONTINUING LARGE IMBALANCE IN DEFENCE SALES).

2. TO BALANCE THIS EXPLANATION OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT SAY SOMETHING ABOUT BRITAIN'S ROLE IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO GIVE THE PRESIDENT A CLEARER PERSPECTIVE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN COOPERATION AND THE US/EUROPEAN RELATIONSHIP. THIS MIGHT INCLUDE REFERENCE TO THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES FACED BY SOME EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO DEFENCE EXPENDITURE AND THE CONCOMITANT NEED FOR VISIBLE EFFORTS ON ARMS CONTROL. THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE CONSULTATION AND THE VALUE OF DISCUSSION WITHIN RESTRICTED GROUPINGS MIGHT BE EMPHASISED. (COLOMBO LOBBIED THE AMERICANS HEAVILY FOR ITALIAN INCLUSION IN RESTRICTED GROUPINGS.)

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3. WE HAVE SPECIFIC POINTS TO RAISE IN DISCUSSION OF BELIZE, SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE EUROPEAN MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE. THE PRESIDENT IS NOT A MAN FOR DETAIL: AND THE BURDEN OF DISCUSSION OF THESE SUBJECTS WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN YOU AND HAIG. NEVERTHELESS, I THINK THAT THE OPPORTUNITY SHOULD NOT BE MISSED TO REGISTER ON THE PRESIDENT'S MIND OUR VIEWS ON THESE SUBJECTS. I THINK HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE MERITS OF OUR BALANCED APPROACH ON ARAB/ISRAEL (HE TILTS HEAVILY TO ISRAEL). THERE IS SCOPE FOR A SERIOUS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE HANDLING OF RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, ENCOMPASSING AFGHANISTAN, POLAND AND CUBAN-SPONSORED SUBVERSION, WHERE THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE EL SALVADOR MUCH IN MIND. DISCUSSION OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND THE SOVIET ROLE IN SPONSORING THEM COULD BE LED INTO A REFERENCE TO THE PROVISIONAL IRA AND THE NEED FOR A FIRM US STANCE AGAINST IT.

4. THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITY FOR A FULL DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC QUESTIONS AT THE SPECIAL LUNCH. THE PRESIDENT WILL NOT OF COURSE BE PRESENT AT IT AND THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT WISH TO MAKE SOME POINTS TO HIM PERSONALLY ABOUT THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE IN TACKLING THE UK'S PROBLEMS AND ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING AN OPEN WORLD TRADE ENVIRONMENT.

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