

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 400

CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 220900Z
FM WASHINGTON 212330Z MAR 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 934 OF 21 MARCH

PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

1. DEEVER, WHOM I SAW OVER THE WEEKEND, WAS IN HIS MOST DEAVASTATING FORM. HE SAID HE HAD SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO LOUIS ON THE NINETEENTH TO TELL HMG THAT, IN VIEW OF THE PARLIAMENTARY FUSS, THE PRESIDENT THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO ABANDON THE IDEA OF A SPEECH ALTOGETHER. HIS AIM WAS TO AVOID THE PRIME MINISTER FURTHER EMBARRASSMENT.

2. I SAID THAT EVEN IF THE SPEECH COULD NOT TAKE PLACE IN WESTMINSTER HALL IT MIGHT BE HELD ELSEWHERE IN PARLIAMENT. DEEVER SAID THAT AFTER ALL THE PUBLICITY IT WOULD BE HUMILIATING TO MAKE THE SPEECH ELSEWHERE. IT WOULD LOOK LIKE A CLIMB DOWN. I SAID THAT MY PERSONAL VIEW WAS THAT IT WOULD LOOK PETTY FOR THE PRESIDENT TO APPEAR TO BE SAYING WHERE HE MUST SPEAK: AND THAT HE WOULD NOT SPEAK, SAY IN THE ROYAL CHAMBER, WHICH HAD BEEN GOOD ENOUGH FOR KOSYGIN AND GISCARD. I ADDED THAT SUCH AN OUTCOME COULD BE REGARDED AS A TRIUMPH FOR FOOT.

3. I TOLD DEEVER THAT IN MY VIEW FOOT WAS PLAYING DOMESTIC POLITICS WITH THIS ISSUE: HE RESENTED THE ADVANTAGE THAT THE PM MIGHT GET OUT OF IT. I WAS SURE THE PRESIDENT WOULD NOT WANT TO FALL INTO THIS TRAP AND I ASKED DEEVER TO CONVEY WHAT I HAD SAID PERSONALLY TO THE PRESIDENT. PERHAPS A SPEECH IN WESTMINSTER HALL WOULD HAVE BEEN BEST. BUT IF IT HAD TO BE ELSEWHERE IN PARLIAMENT THAT WAS STILL A GREAT EVENT AND THE PRESIDENT COULD PROFIT GREATLY FROM IT. I REPEATED THAT TO DROP THE WHOLE IDEA WOULD SEEM WEAK AND PETTY.

/4. DEEVER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

4. DEEVER ALSO LET DROP THAT ACCORDING TO HIS IDEAS, AGREED IN LONDON, THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE LUNCHING WITH THE PM ON TUESDAY EIGHTH JUNE. THERE WOULD BE NO LUNCH AT THE USA EMBASSY. I SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT AT ALL MY IDEA OF WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED IN LONDON. DEEVER SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT SAW NO POINT IN LUNCHING AT THE EMBASSY. I REFERRED TO THE PM'S QUESTIONS ON THE TUESDAY TO WHICH DEEVER ANSWERED THAT THE LUNCH COULD BE OVER BY 2.15.

5. DEEVER SAID IN CONCLUSION THAT WE HAD BETTER TALK ABOUT IT FURTHER BRINGING CLARK INTO THE ACT. HE SAID HE WOULD RING ME TOMORROW.

6. I WILL TRY TO TELEPHONE ON THE CONFIDENTIAL PHONE TOMORROW TO FIND OUT HOW YOU REACT IN LONDON TO WHAT DEEVER IS SAYING

HENDERSON

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT
LIMITED

PCD
NAD
DEF DEPT
NEWS DEPT
PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
MR BULLARD
MR WRIGHT

MR URE
MR GILLMORE
CABINET OFFICE

COPIES TO:

SIR PHILIP MOORE, BUCKINGHAM PALACE
SIR J JOHNSTON, LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S
OFFICE, ST JAMES'S PALACE
PS/SIR R ARMSTRONG, CABINET OFFICE
MR COLES PS NO 10 DOWNING STREET