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FM WASHINGTON 090036Z MAR 82
TO PRIORITY F C O
TELEGRAM NO 791 OF 8 MARCH

MY TELEGRAM NO 781: PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT

1. SHOULD SOME COMPROMISE LOOK POSSIBLE WITH FOOT INVOLVING MEETING MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT SOMEWHERE OTHER THAN WESTMINSTER HALL I DO NOT THINK THAT THIS WOULD CAUSE ANY DIFFICULTY OVER HERE. PRESUMABLY, HOWEVER, EVEN IF FOOT WERE PREPARED TO AGREE TO THIS, HE MIGHT OBJECT TO TELEVISION AND IT WOULD OF COURSE BE A PITY TO LOSE THIS.

HENDERSON

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT
LIMITED

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NEWS DEPT
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PS/MR HURD
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
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MR WRIGHT

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MR COLES PS NO 10 DOWNING STREET

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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 781 OF 8 MARCH

MY TELNO 776: PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT.

1. HAIG HAS JUST TELEPHONED ME TO EXPRESS HIS GREAT CONCERN ABOUT THE STORIES HE HAD JUST SEEN ON THE TAPES OF THE EXCHANGES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ARISING FROM THE LEAK TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES. HE SAID IT WAS QUITE DEPLORABLE THAT THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN THIS LEAK, THE THIRD OF ITS KIND IN A WEEK. HE ENTIRELY UNDERSTOOD THE INDIGNATION THAT HAD ARISEN IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS FROM HAVING THIS PIECE OF NEWS BREAK BEFORE THEY HAD BEEN CONSULTED. THE NEXT TIME ANY PEOPLE WENT ABROAD HE WANTED THEM TO TAKE A BAG OF ALUM WITH THEM (A HAIG-SPEAK PRESCRIPTION THAT WAS NEW TO ME). HE WAS THINKING OUT WHAT IF ANYTHING HE COULD DO TO TRY TO COUNTER THE HARM DONE. IT WAS MOST ESSENTIAL THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR THE VISIT SHOULD NOT CREATE CONTROVERSY. HE ASKED ME TO ET HIM KNOW IF I HAD ANY IDEAS OF WHAT HE COULD DO IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. I SAID THAT I HAD NOT MYSELF YET SEEN THE TAPES REPORTING THE HOUSE OF COMMONS EXCHANGES BUT I WOULD CONSULT LONDON ON THE BASIS OF WHAT HE HAD SAID AND GET BACK TO HIM IF WE HAD ANY IDEAS.

3. I SUBSEQUENTLY SPOKE TO COLES AT NUMBER 10 WHO TOLD ME HOW THE WIND SITS AT THE MOMENT. FOLLOWING THIS I HAVE HAD ANOTHER WORD WITH HAIG UNDERLINING THE EXTREME DELICACY OF THE MATTER. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT THE AMERICANS COULD DO IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MIGHT NOT MAKE IT WORSE. I SAID THAT THE EMBASSY IN LONDON SHOULD KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT IT IN THE MOST TACTFUL WAY AND THEY MUST HAVE A MEMBER OF STAFF WHO HAS SPECIAL CONTACT WITH THE OPPOSITION. BUT OBVIOUSLY THEY WILL HAVE TO BE ACTING MOST CIRCUMSPECTLY GIVEN FOOT'S VIEWS AND THE ANTI-AMERICAN TREND OF THE LABOUR PARTY. I TOLD HAIG THAT I DID NOT THINK THAT A MESSAGE FROM HIMSELF OR ANYONE ELSE IN THE U S ADMINISTRATION ADDRESSED TO THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION OR THE SHADOW FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD DO MUCH GOOD AT THIS STAGE.

4. HAIG SAID THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO QUOTE GIVE THE PRIME MINISTER ANY MORE AGONY UNQUOTE ON THIS SUBJECT. HE WOULD GET INTO TOUCH WITH LOUIS AND SOUND HIM OUT ON WHETHER ANYTHING COULD CONCEIVABLY BE DONE THAT MIGHT NOT HAVE ADVERSE SIDE EFFECTS.

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5. A LOT DEPENDS UPON HOW THIS EVOLVES AND WHAT THE VIEWS OF FOOT AND THE SHADOW CABINET ARE GOING TO BE. WHAT WE WANT OBVIOUSLY TO AVOID IS THE EXTREME CASE IN WHICH THE MATTER BECOMES INCREASINGLY STOKED UP IN THE UK SO THAT THE AMERICANS ARE INDUCED TO BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY WAY OF PREVENTING FURTHER CONTROVERSY IS TO CANCEL THE VISIT. THEY ARE NOT AT THE MOMENT THINKING ALONG THOSE LINES BUT ARE CERTAINLY AWARE OF THE EXTREME EMBARRASSMENT THEY HAVE CAUSED IN LONDON.

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CONFIDENTIAL

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FM WASHINGTON 080030Z MAR 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 776 OF 7 MARCH
INFO SAVING LOS ANGELES

TELECON RESIDENT CLERK/C. ANSON:
PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT.

1. LOS ANGELES TIMES TODAY (SUNDAY) CARRIES FRONT PAGE STORY HEADLINED QUOTE PRESIDENTIAL FIRST-PARLIAMENT TO HEAR REAGAN UNQUOTE. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS BASED, IT SEEMS, ON INTERVIEW WITH MIKE DEEVER:-

- (1) REAGAN WILL BECOME FIRST U.S. PRESIDENT IN HISTORY TO ADDRESS QUOTE A JOINT SESSION OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT..... HE HAS BEEN INVITED TO SPEAK TO THE HOUSES OF LORDS AND COMMONS ON JUNE 8 IN WESTMINSTER HALL UNQUOTE. DEEVER SAYS OF PRESIDENT'S REACTION TO THE INVITATION TO ADDRESS PARLIAMENT QUOTE HE WAS VERY FLATTERED - OBVIOUSLY UNQUOTE.
- (2) FIRST U.S. PRESIDENT SINCE WOODROW WILSON TO STAY AT WINDSOR CASTLE WHERE HE WILL BE GUEST OF THE QUEEN ON 7 AND 8 JUNE. ON SECOND NIGHT PRESIDENT WILL BE FETED AT A WHITE TIE DINNER FOR 160 PEOPLE.
- (3) QUOTE AMONGST OTHER REASONS, THE PRESIDENT IS LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING TO WINDSOR BECAUSE HE WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOME HORSEBACK RIDING UNQUOTE SAID DEEVER.
- (4) PRESIDENT WILL MEET PRIME MINISTER AT NO. 10.

2. THERE THEN FOLLOW BRIEF PARAGRAPHS IN THE L.A. TIMES ON THE VISITS THE PRESIDENT WILL ALSO MAKE TO FRANCE, ITALY AND WEST GERMANY BUT WITHOUT DETAIL OF THE LIKELY PROGRAMME AS IS GIVEN FOR THE U.K. LEG OF THE VISIT. FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE FOLLOWS BY BAG.

3. WHITE HOUSE DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY, LARRY SPEAKES, IS NOW QUOTED ON REUTERS CONFIRMING THE OUTLINE PROGRAMME GIVEN IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES.

ADVANCE COPIES PLEASE TO NEWS DEPT, BUCKINGHAM PALACE PRESS OFFICE AND NO. 10 PRESS OFFICE.
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ADVANCED AS REQUESTED