

ops

No. 10.13 copies

subject copy filed on:-

Foreign Policy: E-w Relations: Pt 3,

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 217/82

CAB/WH 001/12

FLASH

SECRET

FROM CABINET OFFICE LONDON 121928Z NOV 82

TO WHITE HOUSE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN

DEAR RON,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE ABOUT EAST/WEST RELATIONS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT BREZHNEV. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT TIME FOR US ALL, AND IT IS WAS MOST USEFUL TO HAVE YOUR OWN ASSESSMENT SO PROMPTLY.

I AGREE VERY STRONGLY WITH ALL YOUR VIEWS, IN PARTICULAR THE NEED TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE NEW SOVIET LEADERS THAT A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE EAST/WEST RELATIONSHIP IS AVAILABLE IF THEY ARE WILLING TO ADOPT A NEW APPROACH. I SHALL, AS YOU SUGGEST, MAKE THE POINT IN A SPEECH IN THE CITY OF LONDON ON 15 NOVEMBER.

I AGREE ALSO ABOUT THE OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF WESTERN UNITY AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME. IF THE NEW LEADERSHIP IN MOSCOW WERE GIVEN ANY REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT THEY COULD ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVES BY DIVIDING THE WEST, WE SHOULD HAVE LOST WHAT COULD BE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WAS VERY GLAD INDEED TO HEAR OF THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN WASHINGTON IN THE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT ECONOMIC POLICY TOWARDS THE EAST. THIS WILL OPEN THE WAY TO THE KIND OF CLEAR AND POSITIVE SIGNAL WHICH, LIKE YOU, I SHOULD LIKE TO SEE COME OUT OF THE NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING NEXT MONTH.

I SHALL NOT GO TO MOSCOW MYSELF FOR THE FUNERAL ON MONDAY. FRANCIS PYM WILL REPRESENT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT. HE WILL, I KNOW, BE HOPING FOR THE CHANCE OF A WORD WITH GEORGE SHULTZ.

I VERY MUCH AGREE THAT WE MUST ALL KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH IN THE COMING DAYS AND WEEKS. IT WOULD OF COURSE BE MARVELLOUS IF GEORGE BUSH AND HIS TEAM COULD CALL IN AT LONDON ON THEIR WAY BACK. I SHOULD LIKE THE CHANCE TO TALK TOGETHER.

YOURS EVER,

MARGARET.

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