

RECORD OF A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER  
AND THE HOME SECRETARY AT 2355 HOURS ON SATURDAY 3 MAY 1980

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HS: Just to say one or two things. We've just finished a meeting which I am glad to say we had the help and assistance of John Graham.

PM: Oh good. I saw he had come back.

HS: He is back and came in and talked to us. First of all I had a meeting before I came here with the Commissioner. I also saw Delo, who has been doing all the work and today, I think, has been by any standards a pretty successful day.

PM: I agree. I was very pleased.

HS: And I think we've got so far and the woman who has come out has been extremely helpful. The man on the other hand has not. The Pakistani has not. Whether he was let out on the basis that he wasn't going to be helpful or not I don't know, but he hasn't been. However, the police have taken both of them to the hospital at Hendon so they're going to jolly well keep them there and if he is going to be difficult he will have trouble in being difficult for some time. And so so far I think that's all right. We are now in the situation that we are going to move tomorrow to the next stage which, of course, they want the Ambassadors. Now the Ambassadors is a pretty difficult operation. Because on the whole there is only really one which we are wholly prepared to accept and that's the Kuwaiti, with the possible addition of the Syrian, but the others, categorically, no, and therefore the police are being told that the others are not acceptable. We've got the Red Cross lined up to this extent that Douglas has just spoken to Evelyn Shuckburgh and he is prepared for people from the British Red Cross to appear and to receive a message. But not, of course, to mediate or negotiate. We are very sensitive to the fact that if we get even an Ambassador who is satisfactory he might easily start coming along and saying that of course he has an idea of how it should be done and if only we, the

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British Government, would do it that would be very good. Now the one thing we can't have is an Ambassador who says that.

PM: Well, yes, that's exactly - his objectives aren't the same as ours.

HS: That's the trouble.... they may be. However we think - Douglas thinks - I think he and possibly Johnny Graham will go after our meeting tomorrow morning to see the Kuwaiti and see his form and find out, because Douglas knows him very well, he has just been there with him and he thinks that he can at least find out. He doesn't think we will ever be able quite to quite guarantee it. So we are telling the police to play the Ambassadors pretty cool.

PM: I would have thought the Syrian would have done just exactly what you suggested.

HS: This is what I think.

PM: Because he is that sort of person.

HS: And I am very reluctant to see him on that course. And I don't think we shall have to. But, I think, we have got enough to go along with tomorrow. All the information is coming in quite well and on the whole the people inside, I better not be too specific, are in fact being pretty helpful. And so so far all right. On Johnny Graham's judgment I think these are people who he thinks may not be all that solid but this is only, he is not quite sure because he isn't quite sure of their exact parentage as you might say.

PM: They are getting actually quite a lot of publicity aren't they Willie. That's there objective.

HS: As that's their objective it may be that they will at some stage decide that that's all they going to get. But the difficulty of how to get that across to them is going to be the next problem. But I think that probably isn't tomorrow's problem but it may be Monday's or Tuesday's problem. Well I think we can only say the police have done frightfully well.

PM: So far, very good indeed.

HS: But I think we are probably getting up against a more difficult time. But everything else is organised and ready and everything else is in hand. And we are now in a much better position for obvious reasons than we were before. I think that's really all that I can say.

PM: Willie, I think that's absolutely first class.

HS: Well I'm very grateful.

PM: I'm sorry you're all having to be there all over the weekend.

HS: Well I think we are seeing how we go and I've got down to a meeting in the morning and a meeting late at night for the moment. But I shall see how we go tomorrow.

PM: Well very well done Willie

HS: Well thank you very much. The police really have done awfully well.

PM: And you too. Goodbye.