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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NO 223 OF 17 JULY 1982

INFO PRIORITY GUATEMALA CITY

INFO MEXICO CITY, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

YOUR TEL NO 43: ANGLO GUATEMALA TALKS

1. PREMIER ASKED ME TO THANK THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HIS MESSAGE AND TO REGRET THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT MR RIDLEY'S KIND INVITATION ON EITHER OF THE DATES SUGGESTED. HE HOPED THAT IF THE MINISTER OF STATE WAS UNABLE TO VISIT BELIZE BEFORE THE GUATEMALA TALKS HE WOULD BE ABLE TO COME ON HERE AFTERWARDS.
 2. PRICE LEAVES FOR MANAGUA TOMORROW AFTERNOON AND WILL ONLY GET BACK HERE ON THE EVENING OF 21ST. THEREAFTER HE SAYS THAT HE HAS TO PREPARE FOR AND BE PRESENT AT THE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE ON 25TH ON OPPOSITION MOTION CALLING FOR REJECTION OF LAND CESSION.
 3. BOTH DATES SUGGESTED WOULD THEREFORE UNDOUBTEDLY BE INCONVENIENT FOR HIM. BUT AS THREE OTHER MINISTERS ARE ALREADY SCHEDULED TO GO TO MANAGUA HIS ABSENCE FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY CELEBRATIONS WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO CAUSE OFFENCE. AS FOR THE OPPOSITION MOTION, GOVERNMENT HAS SUCH AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW HIS PRESENCE COULD BE REGARDED AS ESSENTIAL.
 4. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT PRICE FEELS THAT HAVING GIVEN HIS REACTION TO THE NEW YORK TALKS THERE IS NOTHING MORE TO BE SAID. HE IS TAKING THE LINE THAT IS IT NOW UP TO US THE BRITISH. HE HAS GIVEN HIS ADVICE AND NOTHING ANYONE ELSE SAYS IS LIKELY TO CHANGE IT.
- FCO PASS GUATEMALA CITY, MEXICO CITY, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK
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