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TO PRIORITY FCO

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YOUR VISIT TO WASHINGTON: 13-15 JULY

1. THE SYMPOSIUM

THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION CLEARLY WISHED TO ENDOW THIS VISIT, YOUR FIRST TO WASHINGTON AS FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY AND THE FIRST OF A SENIOR BRITISH MINISTER SINCE THE GENERAL ELECTION, WITH SYMBOLIC AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIVE IMPORTANCE. ACCORDINGLY, THE PRESIDENT HAD ASSEMBLED AT THE WHITE HOUSE TO GREET YOU VICE PRESIDENT BUSH, SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ, SECRETARY OF DEFENCE WEINBURGER, COUNSELLOR TO THE PRESIDENT MEESE AND NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER CLARK, TO MENTION ONLY THOSE OF CABINET RANK. SIMILARLY THE GUESTS WHO ACCEPTED INVITATIONS TO DINNER AT MY HOUSE INCLUDED THE VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE BALDRIDGE, ATTORNEY GENERAL FRANK SMITH, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK VOLCKER AND ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF DEEVER IN ADDITION TO SECRETARY SHULTZ AND SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE PRESIDENT CLEARLY WISHED TO UNDERLINE THE QUOTE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP UNQUOTE WITH BRITAIN AND HIS DELIGHT AT THE RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTION AND AT THE PROSPECT OF CONTINUING TO WORK WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND H.M. GOVERNMENT.

2. I WOULD ADD THAT IT WAS THE UNANIMOUS VIEW OF MY RECENT HEADS OF POSTS CONFERENCE THAT THE VIEW OF BRITAIN FROM THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED IN RECENT MONTHS BY THE FALKLAND CAMPAIGN, BY HMG'S DETERMINATION TO PUT THE BRITISH ECONOMY RIGHT, BY OUR READINESS TO SHOULDER THE NECESSARY DEFENCE BURDENS FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE WEST AND BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S LEADERSHIP AND PERSONALITY. OUR REPUTATION STOOD HIGH.

3. THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN WIDESPREAD AFFECTION FOR BRITAIN IN THIS VAST COUNTRY, BUT IN RECENT YEARS IT HAS BEEN TINGED WITH SADNESS AND DISAPPOINTMENT AT OUR APPARENT INABILITY TO TACKLE OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. TODAY THAT AFFECTION IS BEING REINFORCED WITH ADMIRATION AND RESPECT AT THE TURN-ROUND IN RESOLVE AND SUCCESS. I AM SURE YOU WILL HAVE SENSED THE ABUNDANCE OF GOODWILL ON ALL SIDES, IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND ON THE HILL DURING YOUR TALKS WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. THE VIBES COULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN BETTER. IT WILL BE OUR TASK HERE TO BUILD ON THIS REPUTATION.

4. SEE MY I.F.T.

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