



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 July, 1985.

PRESIDENT REAGAN

As you will have seen from my records of the Prime Minister's visit to Washington, President Reagan telephoned her from Camp David during her meeting with Vice-President Bush. The Prime Minister commented that the President's voice sounded firm and he appeared in good spirits. Mrs Reagan, who also spoke, sounded by contrast care-worn and under strain.

In discussion of the President's health after the telephone call, Vice-President Bush said that so far as he could tell the President was recovering. He had lost weight, not surprisingly, and suffered some pain when he moved. But he was anxious to get back to work. Mrs. Reagan was, however, under considerable strain: indeed he was worried about her. She had nagging doubts as to whether the President's cancer had really been eliminated. She also thought that the President's staff were 'bearing down' on him unnecessarily and pushing him to get back to work. She was doing all she could to limit his engagements. From a further casual remark by the Vice-President, I got the impression that Mrs. Reagan had been present at a meeting of the National Security Council that morning (the Vice-President referred to her stopping the President from rising from his chair).

Although there is nothing of great moment in this, I think the subject of the President's health sufficiently important to make it worth recording even minutiae. But I should be grateful if you would treat my letter as for the Secretary of State's and the PUS's personal information.

Charles Powell

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