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FM FCO 241000Z FEBRUARY 81

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 298 OF 24 FEBRUARY 1981

YOUR TELNO 633: APPOINTMENT OF US AMBASSADOR

1. WHEN KINGMAN BREWSTER WAS APPOINTED THE THEN PRIME MINISTER MADE APPROPRIATE WELCOMING NOISES IN WASHINGTON WHICH HE WAS VISITING AT THE TIME. THIS GAVE RISE TO SOME MISUNDERSTANDING AND EMBARRASSMENT ENSUED WHEN BREWSTER HAD TO WAIT WHILE AGREEMENT WAS SOUGHT HASTILY FROM THE QUEEN.

2. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS PAST HISTORY, YOU MAY WANT TO ENSURE THAT EVEN IF LOUIS' NOMINATION IS CONFIRMED WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER IS IN WASHINGTON THE ADMINISTRATION REALISE THAT TECHNICALLY HIS APPOINTMENT CANNOT BE MADE OFFICIAL (PARA 1 OF TUR) UNTIL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE QUEEN.

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