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TO IMMEDIATE F C O  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 593 OF 20 FEBRUARY  
AND TO ALL CONSULATES IN THE USA

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

THE FOLLOWING TEXT OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S STATEMENT ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN AT 2.30 TODAY

IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH PRIME MINISTER THATCHER A DEAR FRIEND AND A RESPECTED LEADER OF ONE OF AMERICA'S CLOSEST ALLIES. WE'VE HAD A CORDIAL DISCUSSION ON A WIDE RANGE OF MATTERS. OUR CONVERSATION HAS REFLECTED THE EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THE WARM FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN MRS THATCHER AND MYSELF.

WE DISCUSSED EAST/WEST RELATIONS AND IN PARTICULAR THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING GENEVA TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS. WE FULLY AGREED THAT THE UNITY, PATIENCE AND THE DETERMINATION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE ARE ESSENTIAL IF ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO SUCCEED. WHAT WE'RE SEEKING ARE SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN THE NUMBERS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS THROUGH FAIR AND VERIFIABLE AGREEMENTS. PRIME MINISTER THATCHER AND I AGREED THAT IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO CONTINUE NATO'S INF DEPLOYMENTS ON SCHEDULE IN ACCORD WITH THE ALLIANCE'S 1979 DECISION. WE BOTH ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE DIALOGUE OPENING IN GENEVA WILL RESULT IN PROGRESS. AND WHILE THAT PROGRESS CONTINUES HOWEVER WE WILL BE STEADFAST IN THE MODERNISATION OF OUR FORCES AND IN OUR DETERMINATION TO PROMOTE FULL ADHERENCE TO EXISTING ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS. THESE ARE CRUCIAL INCENTIVES TO ANY REAL PROGRESS.

PRIME MINISTER THATCHER AND I ALSO DISCUSSED THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AGREED ON THE NEED FOR PARTIES IN THAT REGION TO TAKE CONCRETE STEPS TOWARDS PEACE. WE REVIEWED THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND I ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER OF OUR DETERMINATION TO PRESERVE DEMOCRACY AND TO SEEK PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF THAT AREA.

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WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE THREAT OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND WE AGREED THAT INCREASED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IS CALLED FOR TO COMBAT THIS EVIL. WE EXPRESSED OUR WILLINGNESS TO WORK TOGETHER AND WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO FIGHT TERRORISM AND DETER THOSE WHO GIVE SUPPORT TO TERRORISM. WE DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND I TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE UNITED STATES APPLAUD THE CONTINUATION OF HER DIALOGUE WITH IRISH PRIME MINISTER FITZGERALD AND ASSURED HER OF OUR SUPPORT OF ALL THOSE WORKING FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS AND RECONCILIATION. PRIME MINISTER THATCHER AND I REVIEWED THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE PROSPECTS OF OUR ECONOMIES IN THE FUTURE.

AND IN CLOSING I WISH TO NOTE THAT 1985 MARKS THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN. OVER THE YEARS THESE RELATIONS HAVE TAKEN ON A VERY SPECIAL QUALITY, IN FACT THEY'RE QUITE EXTRAORDINARY. WE AS AMERICANS ARE PROUD OF OUR RELATIONS WITH OUR ALLIES THE BRITISH AND I AM PERSONALLY PROUD OF MY CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH MY FRIEND MARGARET THATCHER.

WRIGHT