

TO SENATCH DOLE FROM AMBASSADOR PRICE

F. O. 12356: N/A
SIGS: OREP, ASEC
SUBJECT: CODEL DOLE

REF: STATE 090051

1. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR BOB:
UNDER ALMOST ANY CIRCUMSTANCES IMAGINABLE A VISIT BY YOUR REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP DELEGATION TO LONDON WOULD BE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CONCERNED. REGRETTABLY, THE EASTER WEEKEND IS A POOR TIME. BOTH FRIDAY, APRIL 5, AND MONDAY, APRIL 8, ARE LEGAL HOLIDAYS HERE, SETTING UP A FOUR-DAY WEEKEND AROUND WHICH MANY PEOPLE, BOTH IN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND AMONG MY OWN STAFF, HAVE MADE PLANS WELL IN ADVANCE. LONDON WILL SEEM LIKE A STAGE-SET GHOST TOWN -- STORES CLOSED, SERVICES DOWN AND TUMBLEWEED ON THE MAIN STREETS. WORSE, NO ONE IN THE TOP RANKS OF HMG WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MEETINGS, AND THE EMBASSY WILL BE OPERATING AT LESS THAN FULL STRENGTH.

MY BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IS THAT A VISIT BY YOUR DELEGATION COULD BE AN ENORMOUS SUCCESS HERE. BUT WE WOULD WANT TO DO IT RIGHT, INCLUDING INVOLVING KEY MEMBERS OF HMG AS WELL AS THE PRESS AND INCLUDING AN APPROPRIATE FUNCTION AT WINFIELD HOUSE. YOUR PRESENCE WOULD HELP US ATTRACT A VERY USEFUL GROUP FOR SUCH AN OCCASION. FINALLY, CAROL AND I, TOO, WILL BE AWAY AND WOULD REGRET MISSING ELIZABETH, YOU AND THE REST OF YOUR DELEGATION. I REALLY DO NOT WANT TO MISS SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY AND WONDER WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO IDENTIFY A BETTER TIME IN YOUR SCHEDULE WHEN WE CAN ALL GET MUCH MORE PROFIT OUT OF THIS.

WITH WARMEST REGARDS, CHARLIE.

2. END TEXT. PRICE

BT

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