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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 11818

EUR ONLY - FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY RIDGWAY FROM AMBASSADOR PRICE

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PGOV, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH ELECTIONS: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE QUESTION OF POST-ELECTION CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES TAKES ON A NEW DIMENSION THIS TIME AROUND,

WITH A CONSERVATIVE VICTORY STILL THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE OUTCOME, A BRIEF PRESIDENTIAL NOTE FROM BERLIN TO PRIME MINISTER THATCHER IS MOST LIKELY IN THE CARDS. BUT IF LABOR DOES COME THROUGH WITH AN UPSET, A VERY DIFFERENT MESSAGE TO A NEWLY-APPOINTED PRIME MINISTER KINNOCK WOULD BE IN ORDER (ALONG WITH A NOTE TO THATCHER AS SHE LEFT OFFICE). AS OF NOW (BARRING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CAMPAIGN), OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD KEEP A KINNOCK MESSAGE FAIRLY SHORT. IN THE VEIN OF "WE BOTH KNOW WHERE WE STAND, SO LET'S NOT DO ANYTHING ABRUPT ON DEFENSE."

B1, B5

B1

IN THE EVENT OF A HUNG PARLIAMENT (ONE IN WHICH IT IS NOT IMMEDIATELY CLEAR WHO WILL BE THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER), WE WOULD NOT FAVOR SENDING ANY PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE UNTIL THINGS HAVE BEEN SORTED OUT, AT WHICH TIME WE WOULD PROVIDE OUR

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE **REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER** DATE/CASE ID: 20 MAR 2002 199900407

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RECOMMENDATIONS.

- 5. HEREWITH, OUR PROPOSED TEXTS (WE WILL SEND DRAFT MESSAGES TO NEW CABINET FIGURES IN DUE COURSE).
- 6. CONSERVATIVE VICTORY:

LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER THATCHER

RT. HON. MARGARET THATCHER, M.P. PRIME MINISTER
10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON, SW1

DEAR MARGARET:

I AM ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTED AT YOUR REELECTION VICTORY. IT IS AN HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT AND A NEW RATIFICATION OF YOUR REMARKABLE LEADERSHIP. BRITAIN AND THE WEST ARE THE BENEFICIARIES.

AS YOU KNOW, I HAVEN'T BEEN SHY OF TELLING PEOPLE I'M ONE OF YOUR GREATEST FANS. I AM PROUD THAT I CAN CONTINUE TO COUNT YOU AS BOTH FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE.

SINCERELY, CONFIDENTIAL

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RONALD REAGAN

7. LABOR VICTORY:

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