RESTRICTED

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OO WASHINGTON GRS 187 RESTRICTED

FM FCO 261245Z FEB 81 TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON TELEGRAM NUMBER 323 OF 26 FEBRUARY 1981. INFO PRIORITY MADRID

PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE SERIAL No. T 36/81

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## FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY

1. IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND A MESSAGE TO SR CALVO SOTELO FOLLOWING THE VOTE IN THE CORTES YESTERDAY WHICH CONFIRMED HIM AS PRIME MINISTER OF SPAIN. WE SUGGEST THAT YOU CLEAR THE FOLLOWING TEXT AND INSTRUCT MADRID DIRECT TO TRANSMIT IT. THE AMBASSADOR THERE HAS RECOMMENDED STRONGLY THAT THE MESSAGE REFER TO SPAIN'S ACCESSION TO THE EC: HENCE THE REFERENCE TO EARLY MEMBERSHIP. BEGINS

I WAS DELIGHTED TO LEARN THAT YOU HAD BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE CORTES AS PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND SEND MY WARMEST CONGRA-TULATIONS. THE NEWS WAS ESPECIALLY WELCOME, COMING SO SOON AFTER THE ORDEAL WHICH YOU, THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES AND SPANISH DEMOCRACY ITSELF SO SUCCESSFULLY SURMOUNTED ON 23-24 FEBRUARY. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING SPAIN TO EARLY AND FULL PARTNERSHIP AS A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. I MYSELF LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU AND SEND ALL GOOD WISHES FOR YOUR SUCCESS. ENDS.

CARRINGTON

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RESTRICTED GR 60 RESTRICTED FM WASHINGTON 270545Z FEB 81 TO IMMEDIATE MADRID TELEGRAM NUMBER 1 OF 27 FEBRUARY 1981 AND TO IMMEDIATE FCO FOLLOWING FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER PRIME MINISTER HAS APPROVED THE TEXT IN FCO TEL. 323 OF 26 FEBRUARY. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE MESSAGE COULD BE DELIVERED TO SR. CALVO SOTELO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ENDS. HENDERSON LIMITED [COPIES SENT TO NO 10 SED DOWNING ST] INFORMATION D NEWS D PS PS/LPS PS/PUS MR BULLARD MR FERGUSSON RESTRICTED