

FLASH

ADVANCE COPY

LJO NR 437/30

ZZ FCO

OO SINGAPORE

OO KUALA LUMPUR

OO COLOMBO

GR 300

CONFIDENTIAL

FM JAKARTA 300653Z AUG 84

TO FLASH FCO

TEL NO 329 OF 30 AUG

RPTD FOR INFO TO IMMEDIATE SINGAPORE KUALA LUMPUR AND COLOMBO.

YOUR TEL NO 281 TO KUALA LUMPUR : POSTPONEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT.

1. ACTION TAKEN.

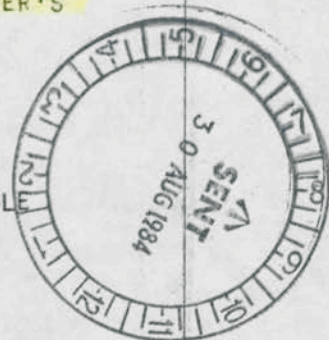
2. OWING TO LOCAL CONDITIONS AND TIME DIFFERENCE I WAS NOT ABLE TO DO MORE LATE LAST NIGHT THAN GET IN TOUCH WITH NIMPUNO (INSPECTOR GENERAL MFA) AND WARN HIM THAT I HAD AN URGENT PERSONAL MESSAGE FOR THE PRESIDENT. HE GUESSED THE SUBJECT AND ARRANGED FOR ME TO SEE STATE SECRETARY SUDHARMO THIS MORNING.

3. WHEN I HAD EXPLAINED THE BACKGROUND AND DELIVERED THE PERSONAL MESSAGE FOR THE PRESIDENT, SUDHARMO SAID THAT MRS THATCHER'S VISIT HAD BEEN AWAITED WITH KEEN ANTICIPATION. HE WAS SORRY THEREFORE ABOUT THE POSTPONEMENT, BUT FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS. HE WAS SURE THAT THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF WOULD ALSO UNDERSTAND. FORTUNATELY THERE HAD BEEN NO FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT IN INDONESIA AND THERE WOULD THEREFORE BE NO PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY ABOUT PUBLICITY. I GAVE HIM THE TEXT OF THE LINE BEING TAKEN BY NO 10 PRESS OFFICE IN DEALING WITH QUESTIONS FROM THE BRITISH PRESS.

4. SUDHARMO ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY CHANCE OF THE VISIT BEING REINSTATED DURING 1984. I SAID THAT I KNEW THAT THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE AND THE STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT WOULD CROWD THE PRIME MINISTER'S DIARY DURING THE REST OF THIS YEAR. BUT I HOPED TO BE IN A POSITION BEFORE LONG TO CANVAS ALTERNATIVE DATES. SUDHARMO HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE WITHIN SIX MONTHS. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ABLE TO COME SHE COULD PERHAPS BE ABLE TO STAY LONGER AND SEE MORE OF INDONESIA.

5. THE INTERVIEW WAS VERY FRIENDLY. THERE IS NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THE FACT THAT THE VISITS TO ALL THE COUNTRIES ON THE

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HDS PROTOCOL D  
PS  
PS/LADY YOUNG  
PS/MR LUCE  
PS/PUS  
SIR P CRADDOCK  
SIR W HARDING  
MR BOYD  
No 10 DST



5. THE INTERVIEW WAS VERY FRIENDLY. THERE IS NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THE FACT THAT THE VISITS TO ALL THE COUNTRIES ON THE ITINERARY HAVE BEEN POSTPONED HAS HELPED HERE. WHEN I MADE THIS POINT CLEAR, SUDHARMONO REPLIED WITH A GRIN THAT WE WERE NOT GOING TO BEHAVE LIKE PRESIDENT REAGAN.

6. AS SOON AS I HEARD THE BBC NEWS BULLETIN THIS MORNING, I BRIEFED THE HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT AT THE MFA (TARMIDZI) ON THE PRESS LINE AND THE BACKGROUND. I WAS AFRAID THAT THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT FROM NO 10 WITHOUT WARNING TO THE INDONESIANS AND IN ADVANCE OF THE DELIVERY OF THE PERSONAL MESSAGE WOULD CAUSE ANNOYANCE. BUT I THINK THIS PRECAUTION HELPED.

DONALD

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