

# CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 315

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FM KUALA LUMPUR 040655Z SEP 84

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 311 OF 4 SEPTEMBER

MY TELNO 305: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT.

1. I REALISE THAT IT IS TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO BE ABLE TO INDICATE WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT BE ABLE TO REINSTATE HER VISIT HERE. I ASSUME THAT CHRISTMAS PARLIAMENTARY RECESS OR THE EASTER RECESS ARE THE OBVIOUS TIMES, THOUGH IF MRS THATCHER WERE ABLE TO COME WHILE PARLIAMENT WAS IN SESSION THIS WOULD OF COURSE GIVE GREATER FLEXIBILITY ON DATES.
2. WE ARE NOW LEFT WITHOUT ANY MINISTERIAL VISIT TO MALAYSIA IN PROSPECT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IF IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT WILL BE REINSTATED LATER RATHER THAN EARLIER, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF YOU YOURSELF VISITING MALAYSIA THIS AUTUMN, PERHAPS AS AN ADJUNCT TO A VISIT TO HONG KONG. FAILING THAT, MR LUCE WAS ABLE TO MANAGE ONLY A BRIEF STAY IN MALAYSIA EARLIER THIS YEAR: A TWO OR THREE DAY VISIT BY HIM BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR WOULD BE VERY WELCOME TO ME, AND I AM SURE TO THE MALAYSIANS. AS YOU WILL UNDERSTAND, I AM ANXIOUS NOT TO LOSE MOMENTUM IN THE PROCESS OF IMPROVING UK/MALAYSIAN RELATIONS. IT IS ALSO AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO PRESS HOME OUR INTEREST IN MALAYSIA SINCE THE JAPANESE HAVE BEEN ON THE RECEIVING END OF STRONG PUBLIC CRITICISM FROM DR MAHATHIR IN THE LAST WEEK OR SO. THIS PROBABLY DOES NOT HERALD THE END OF QUOTE LOOK EAST UNQUOTE. BUT IT MAY OPEN UP FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR BRITISH COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IF THE MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES DECIDE TO DEAL LESS FAVOURABLY WITH THE JAPANESE OVER CONTRACTS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND WE OURSELVES DO NOT SUFFER FROM THE DISPUTE OVER MAS FLIGHTS (ON WHICH WE HAVE TELEGRAPHED SEPARATELY). I HOPE, INCIDENTALLY, THAT THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER MIGHT BE WILLING TO PAY SOME PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO HIS NEWLY APPOINTED MALAYSIAN OPPOSITE NUMBER, DAIM ZAINUDDIN, AT THE FORTHCOMING IMF WORLD BANK MEETING.

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2. AS PART OF THE PROCESS OF KEEPING MATTERS MOVING ALONG GENTLY, I SHALL BE SEEING RAJARAM, UNDER-SECRETARY, MFA, ON 6 SEPTEMBER TO GO OVER WITH HIM ANY POINTS (OTHER THAN MAS FLIGHTS) WHICH THE MALAYSIANS WOULD HAVE WISHED TO RAISE DURING MRS THATCHER'S VISIT. THIS IS INTENDED TO SHOW THE MALAYSIANS THAT WE ARE READY TO ENGAGE IN REGULAR DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS THAT CONCERN THEM. IF THERE ARE ANY PARTICULAR POINTS WHICH YOU WISH ME TO MAKE TO RAJARAM, PERHAPS YOU COULD LET ME KNOW DESKBY 060200Z.

GILLMORE

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MR POWELL,  
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