

Mr. Eliot Janeway called on the Prime Minister at 1500 hours on Monday 24 September. They had a wide-ranging discussion covering the American and international political scenes. I did not take a detailed note; but the following points which Mr. Janeway made are worth recording:

(i) He said that Edward Kennedy would most likely win the Democratic nomination next year. It seemed almost certain now that Kennedy would run in the Primaries, and assuming he did so, he should beat Carter easily in them. Once nominated, there was no Republican contender who would be a match for him. Kennedy was, in his view, shrewd and hard, and the most effective public speaker in America. If elected, he would be hawkish on Russia, the PLO and OPEC - and generally, a Kennedy Presidency would be of advantage to the UK. He would probably stay clear of the Rhodesia issue over the coming months because of his need to "go south" for a Vice President.

(ii) Mr. Janeway gave his views on the prospects of the likely Republican contenders - Reagan, Connolly, Howard Baker and possibly Ford. Connolly had the support of many board-rooms, but very little grass-roots support in the Party - and was therefore unlikely to pick up many votes in the Primaries. Howard Baker was a very attractive candidate, but his chances of winning the nomination were slim. Reagan was the strongest contender for the nomination but, in a fight against Kennedy for the Presidency, he would be massacred - rather as Goldwater had been in 1964. Ford would not run in the Primaries, but if it looked as if a stalemate was developing between Howard Baker and Reagan, he might well allow himself to be drafted.

(iii) Mr. Janeway went on to say that, although President Carter was likely to be beaten by Kennedy in the Primaries,

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this would not prevent him from still trying to run for re-election. He foresaw Carter running on a Democratic splinter-ticket: and he would achieve the necessary support for this by provoking a national security crisis to show that he was firm and steady (in contrast to Kennedy's alleged weakness under pressure ever since the Chapaquidick incident). This crisis might be in Latin America, the Middle East or Africa.

(iv) President Carter's designation of the PLO as a Civil Rights organisation had been one of the Administration's worse mistakes. This had been bad for President Sadat, and it had strengthened the PLO generally. The PLO was now the "Fourth International", and they were operating in many areas. They were, for example, in Mr. Janeway's view, responsible for the recent shooting in San Sebastian. There was now an unholy alliance between American blacks and the PLO, which was having a baneful effect on American foreign policy generally. But Kennedy, if elected President, would be strong enough to break away from this.

(v) Mr. Janeway said that he hoped that the Rhodesia Conference would succeed. This was not just for the sake of Southern Africa, but also to re-establish Britain's role in the world. A successful outcome would do much to improve Britain's position internationally and to "re-establish a London presence in NATO".

(vi) While a political settlement in Rhodesia was important, an equally pressing issue in Southern Africa was the deteriorating food situation. US agricultural technology was desperately needed, but it was difficult for the USA to provide this assistance direct to South Africa. Mr. Janeway suggested that, if the Conference succeeded, it might be possible for the UK to act as broker and channel this assistance to South Africa from the USA.