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*Prime Minister*

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 5005 OF 24 DECEMBER  
INFO MODUK.

*and*

**PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION: GENERAL HAIG.**

1. TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST REPORTS THAT HAIG HAS MOVED QUICKLY TO MAKE HIS MARK ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT BY DISMISSING THE TRANSITION TEAM LED BY AMBASSADOR ROBERT NEUMANN. NEUMANN HIMSELF HAS BEEN KEPT ON.
2. THE STATE DEPARTMENT TRANSITION TEAM PRESENTED ITS REPORT TO HAIG ON MONDAY AND HAD, IN THEORY, COMPLETED ITS TASK, BUT MANY OF ITS MEMBERS UNDOUBTEDLY HOPED TO BE KEPT ON, FIRSTLY TO HELP RESHAPE THE DEPARTMENT AND LATER TO FILL SENIOR POSITIONS. SOME OF THE TRANSITION TEAM MEMBERS MAY YET BE CONSIDERED FOR JOBS BUT THEIR DISMISSAL HAS COME AS A SURPRISE - UNWELCOME TO THEM IF TO NO-ONE ELSE.
3. THE STATE DEPARTMENT TEAM HAS NOT BEEN ONE OF THE SUCCESSES OF THE TRANSITION. IT INCLUDED ONE OR TWO FIGURES WHO WERE MORE INTERESTED IN FINDING A PLATFORM FOR THEIR OWN VIEWS THAN IN PREPARING THE GROUND FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. THE TEAM WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR A NUMBER OF LEAKS, INCLUDING THE TELEGRAMS DESCRIBING SENATOR PERCY'S CONVERSATIONS IN MOSCOW. IT WAS ALSO THE SOURCE OF PERSISTENT REPORTS THAT THERE WAS TO BE A MAJOR PURGE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND OF US AMBASSADORS AROUND THE WORLD, AND A FEELING HAD GROWN THAT THE TRANSITION TEAM HAD CREATED MORE PROBLEMS THAN IT HAD SOLVED. IT HAD CERTAINLY GENERATED CONSIDERABLE ILL-WILL AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
4. THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTS THAT HAIG HAS BROUGHT WITH HIM TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AS PERSONAL ASSISTANT, A PHILADELPHIA LAWYER, SHERWOOD D GOLDBERG. HE IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN ON ROBERT MCFARLANE (A RETIRED COLONEL WHO WAS ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT TRANSITION TEAM AND WHO PREVIOUSLY WORKED ON THE STAFF OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE).

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5. THE SAME ARTICLE REPORTS THE ADDITION TO HAIG'S STAFF OF TWO OTHER ADVISERS WITH EXPERIENCE IN THE POLITICO-MILITARY FIELD, BOTH OF THEM KNOWN TO THIS EMBASSY. PAUL WOLFOWITZ, WHO HAS BEEN ON THE FRINGES OF THE TRANSITION TEAM, WAS UNTIL RECENTLY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR REGIONAL PROGRAMMES IN THE PENTAGON'S PROGRAMME ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OFFICE WHERE HE WORKED ON THE GULF/INDIAN OCEAN REGION IN PARTICULAR. HE IS CURRENTLY HEAD OF THE SECURITY STUDIES PROGRAMME AT THE SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES OF JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY. RICHARD BURT HAS MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF AS LESLIE GELB'S SUCCESSOR AS NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT OF THE NEW YORK TIMES. HE IS A FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES IN LONDON.

HENDERSON

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