

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 252311Z MAR 81

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1002 OF 25 MARCH 1981

INFO SAVING NATO POSTS AND DUBLIN.

MY TELNO 985: SECRETARY HAIG: CRISIS MANAGEMENT

1. THE WHITE HOUSE ISSUED A STATEMENT YESTERDAY EVENING (TEXT IN MIFT) QUOTE CONFIRMING THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO HAVE THE VICE PRESIDENT CHAIR THE ADMINISTRATION'S CRISIS MANAGEMENT TEAM AS PART OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SYSTEM UNQUOTE. THIS, OF COURSE, IS QUITE THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT HAIG TOLD ME THE PRESIDENT HAD SAID TO HIM WHEN I SAW HIM EARLY YESTERDAY EVENING (MY TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE).

2. THIS IS THE FAVOURITE SUBJECT AT THE MOMENT FOR PRESS SPECULATION IN WASHINGTON AND THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF IT. TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST REPORTS THAT AFTER THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT HAIG HELD MEETINGS WITH HIS AIDES WELL INTO THE NIGHT AND THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT LATER DENIED A REPORT THAT HE HAD RESIGNED. EACH CLARIFICATION ONLY MAKES THE ISSUE MUDDIER. NOT LEAST A CALL I HAVE JUST HAD FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT HIMSELF WHO HAD HEARD THAT THE SUBJECT HAD COME UP IN CONVERSATION BETWEEN HAIG AND ME YESTERDAY.

3. BUSH SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT LONDON WAS NOT IN ANY DOUBT ABOUT IT, BUT ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED WAS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD DEPUTED TO HIM THE TRADITIONAL WHITE HOUSE ROLE WHEN EVERYONE WAS FLAPPING ON SOME PARTICULARLY CRITICAL PROBLEM, A TASK PRESIDED OVER TRADITIONALLY BY THE PRESIDENT OR ON HIS BEHALF BY THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. HE HIMSELF WOULD NOW BE DOING THAT, BUT BUSH SOUGHT TO INDICATE, I THINK, THAT HE WOULD NOT BE TAKING OVER ANY INITIATORY ROLE ON FOREIGN POLICY, SOMETHING THAT I SURMISE HAIG MAY HAVE WISHED HIM TO CLARIFY WITH ME. HE DREW THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN CRITICAL ISSUES SUCH AS POLAND AND EL SALVADOR, WHICH WOULD REMAIN STATE DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITY, AND PARTICULAR SITUATIONS WHEN QUOTE THE MARINES WERE LANDING UNQUOTE WHICH WOULD BE HANDLED BY HIM AND THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM.

4. SINCE DICTATING THE ABOVE I HAVE HEARD THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS JUST ISSUED YET ANOTHER STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS QUOTE THE ULTIMATE CRISIS MANAGER UNQUOTE. HE ADDED QUOTE THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS MY PRIMARY ADVISER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND IN THAT CAPACITY HE IS THE CHIEF FORMULATOR AND SPOKESMAN FOR FOREIGN POLICY IN THIS ADMINISTRATION UNQUOTE. REFERRING TO THE VICE PRESIDENT'S ROLE, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT MR BUSH WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR EARTHQUAKES OR FLOODS AS WELL AS FOR FOREIGN POLICY CRISES. AS IF TO LAND THE LAST BLOW, BUSH HIMSELF HAS ALSO GIVEN A PRESS CONFERENCE DURING WHICH, WHEN ASKED HOW

CONFIDENTIAL

/A CRISIS

CONFIDENTIAL

A CRISIS IS TO BE DEFINED, HE REPLIED QUOTE WE WILL KNOW IT WHEN THE PRESIDENT SEES IT UNQUOTE. WITH THE SOLEMNITY THAT THE WHOLE ISSUE MERITS, BUSH EXPLAINED THAT HE QUOTE ENVISIONS THE JOB OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT AS SITTING IN THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM UNTIL THE PRESIDENT GETS THERE UNQUOTE.

FCO PSE PASS SAVING TO ANKARA ATHENS BRUSSELS BONN COPENHAGEN LISBON LUXEMBOURG DUBLIN OTTAWA OSLO PARIS ROME REYKJAVIK THE HAGUE UKDEL NATO

HENDERSON

REPEATED AS REQUESTED

FCO | WH

NAD

GRS 325
UNCLASSIFIED
DESKBY 260930Z
FM WASHINGTON 252315Z MAR 81
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1003 OF 25 MARCH 1981
INFO SAVING NATO POSTS AND DUBLIN

ms

MIPT: SECRETARY HAIG: CRISIS MANAGEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT:
BEGINS:

I AM CONFIRMING TODAY THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO HAVE THE VICE PRESIDENT CHAIR THE ADMINISTRATION'S QUOTE CRISIS MANAGEMENT UNQUOTE TEAM, AS A PART OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SYSTEM.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS TEAM IS TO COORDINATE AND CONTROL ALL APPROPRIATE FEDERAL RESOURCES IN RESPONDING TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC. THE TYPE OF INCIDENT THAT MIGHT BE INVOLVED RANGES FROM AN ISOLATED TERRORIST ATTACK TO AN ATTACK UPON UNITED STATES TERRITORY BY A HOSTILE POWER.

DURING ANY EMERGENCY, THE PRESIDENT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE AVAILABLE TO MAKE ALL CRITICAL DECISIONS AND TO CHAIR THE CRISIS MANAGEMENT TEAM AS HIS PRESENCE MAY BE NEEDED. VICE PRESIDENT BUSH'S ROLE IS TO CHAIR THE TEAM IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESIDENT. OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, HE WILL ALSO ENGAGE IN FORWARD PLANNING FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSES, DEVELOP OPTIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL CONSIDERATION AND TAKE THE LEAD IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE DECISIONS.

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CHOICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT WAS GUIDED IN LARGE MEASURE BY THE FACT THAT MANAGEMENT OF CRISES HAS TRADITIONALLY AND APPROPRIATELY - BEEN DONE WITHIN THE WHITE HOUSE.

AS IN THE PAST, THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF WILL PROVIDE THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER STAFF SUPPORT TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE CRISIS MANAGEMENT TEAM.

ENDS.

FCO PSE PASS SAVING TO ANKARA ATHENS BRUSSELS BONN COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN LISBON LUXEMBOURG OTTAWA OSLO PARIS ROME REYKJAVIK THE
HAGUE UKDEL NATO

HENDERSON

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

FCO/WHITEHALL
NAD