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*Ch. Mr Bone RD
Mr Wilkinson (34)
PI staff
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British Embassy
3100 Massachusetts Avenue NW Washington DC 20008
Telex Domestic USA 89-2370/89-2384
Telex International 64224 (WUI)/440015 (ITT)
Telephone (202) 462-1340

Miss Robinson

C D O Barrie Esq
North American Department
FCO

Your reference
Our reference

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Dear David,

WALTER MONDALE: BREAKING AWAY?

1. Vice President Mondale is making it very plain that, by contrast with 1976 - when he could not face nine months of campaigning and night after night staying in motels - on this occasion he is serious about his candidature for the Democratic presidential nomination. Moreover, he realises that, if he is to mount a successful challenge to Senator Kennedy, he must develop a more clear-cut, hard-hitting image than he has had up to now.
2. The first and not especially auspicious sign of this change was Mondale's appearance at a fund-raising dinner in New York sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a political action committee concerned with Gay Rights. Now, in speeches round the country, Mondale is playing on the theme of standing up for America ("we've been running up the white flag when we should be running up the American flag"). He has also taken a leaf out of Governor Connolly's book from the 1979/80 campaign by attacking Japanese trading practices ("now I'm not a protectionist, but I am not a sucker"). I enclose a piece by James Reston in the New York Times on this theme.
3. Mondale's protectionist talk is couched in pretty general terms. What he is really doing is campaigning for the support of the Labour Unions. The AFL-CIO plan to endorse a Democratic presidential candidate at the outset of the primary process in 1984 rather than to wait until the primaries are over. Mondale's anti-Japanese, protectionist theme is bound to appeal to the Labour Unions.
4. Mondale is also using political campaign money to help Democratic candidates in 1982 and will have campaigned for 95 House, 17 Senate and 22 gubernatorial candidates by the time of the November elections. These are chips he will hope to cash in 1984.

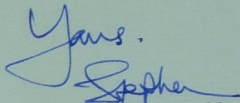
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5. Mondale is in no sense disowning his close association with President Carter which could help him in the South, which will be crucial to his chance of nomination, but it clearly remains a potential embarrassment to him. On the whole, Carter has been fairly discreet in his endorsement of Mondale, rather less discreet in his remarks about Kennedy. In a recent interview, Carter said that Kennedy was a superb candidate for a nomination but was not qualified to be President. People did not trust Kennedy and he hoped that, in 1984, Kennedy's support would evaporate as it had done in 1980. Asked whether he would vote for Kennedy if he were the nominee in 1984, Carter replied: "Well, I have never voted Republican".

Yours,

J S Wall