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FM WASHINGTON 172329Z OCTOBER 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 3005 OF 17 OCT
INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK
INFO SAVING BONN, PARIS, UKDEL NATO
MY TELNO 2983: NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

1. THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THIS AFTERNOON THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT (BUD) MCFARLANE AS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, SUCCEEDING JUDGE CLARK.
2. MCFARLANE WAS BORN IN 1937. A GRADUATE OF THE US NAVAL ACADEMY, HE SPENT TWENTY YEARS IN THE MARINE CORPS BEFORE RETIRING FROM ACTIVE DUTY AS A LIEUTENANT COLONEL. HE CAME TO WASHINGTON TO WORK FOR THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION AS A COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS IN 1971. FROM 1973-75 HE WAS MILITARY ASSISTANT TO HENRY KISSINGER. HE THEN BECAME SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY UNDER BRENT SCOWCROFT, WHEN THE LATTER SUCCEEDED KISSINGER AS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. DURING THE CARTER PERIOD, HE SERVED AS A SENIOR STAFF MEMBER ON THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. HE WAS THEN APPOINTED COUNSELLOR AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT UNDER AL HAIG, BEFORE BECOMING DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER.
3. MCFARLANE'S APPOINTMENT IS A VICTORY FOR THE PRAGMATISTS AND PROFESSIONALS, AND INDEED FOR COMMONSENSE. MRS KIRKPATRICK APPEARS TO HAVE LOBBIED HARD FOR THE POST. CERTAINLY HER FRIENDS WERE ACTIVE ON HER BEHALF. MCFARLANE'S APPOINTMENT, NEEDLESS TO SAY, HAS BEEN GREETED WITH RELIEF IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND WILL CERTAINLY GET A GOOD PRESS.
4. MCFARLANE WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE, AS HE ALWAYS HAS DONE HERE, EFFECTIVELY AND BEHIND THE SCENES. LIKE CLARK, HE IS UNLIKELY TO RECEIVE VISITORS, ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS WOULD BE TAKING OVER PART OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. HE IS ONE OF THE FEW WASHINGTON OFFICIALS CAREFUL TO KEEP THE PRESS AT ARMS LENGTH. HIS DEALINGS WITH THEM HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO OCCASIONAL FACTUAL BRIEFINGS ON THE BACKGROUND TO COMPLEX ARMS CONTROL ISSUES. A TEAM PLAYER, HE IS VISIBLY DISTRESSED BY THE LEAKS, DISPLAYS OF DISARRAY AND RANDOM STATEMENTS BY LESSER ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN ETC. WHICH ACCOMPANY THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THIS TOWN. NO

~~MEN ETC, WHICH ACCOMPANY THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THIS TOWN.~~ NO SOFT-LINER ON DEALINGS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, HE IS A PRAGMATIST, DEVOID OF SYMPATHY FOR IDEOLOGUES OF THE PERLE/IKLE BRAND, WHO UNSUCCESSFULLY OPPOSED HIS APPOINTMENT.

5. MCFARLANE HAS A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF POLITICO-MILITARY MATTERS. HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL EARLIER THIS YEAR IN HELPING TO MOVE FORWARD THE US ADMINISTRATION'S POSITIONS BOTH IN INF AND START. AS THE PRESIDENT'S ENVOY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, HE WAS LESS WELL CAST. NOT SURPRISINGLY, IT TOOK HIM SOME TIME TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE SITUATION IN LEBANON. HE HAD A TENDENCE TO SEE THE LEBANON CRISIS PREDOMINANTLY IN EAST/WEST TERMS; AND INITIALLY WAS TEMPTED TO LOOK FOR A CLEAN CUT SOLUTION THROUGH INCREASED US INVOLVEMENT. BUT AS HE ACQUIRED MORE EXPERIENCE, HE DID A GOOD JOB IN WORKING STEADILY AND PATIENTLY FOR A CEASE FIRE IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS WILL STAND HIM IN GOOD STEAD AS HE PICKS UP HIS THREADS IN WASHINGTON AND LOOKS TOWARDS THE NEXT STAGE.

6. THERE WILL BE SOME LAMENTATIONS FROM THE RIGHT WING; AND MOVES MAY BE NEEDED TO PLACATE THEM, REPUBLICAN COMMENTATORS HAVE BEGUN TO ASK WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REAGANAUTS. WEINBERGER IS SAID TO HAVE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT MCFARLANE WOULD NOT HAVE THE SAME AUTHORITY OR ACCESS TO THE PRESIDENT AS CLARK, AN OLD ASSOCIATE. CERTAINLY HE WILL HAVE TO USE HIS ELBOWS IF HE IS TO GET FOREIGN POLICY POINTS ACROSS AT A TIME WHEN DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS ARE LIKELY INCREASINGLY TO BECOME THE PRIORITY. BUT THE PRESIDENT HAS ENTIRE CONFIDENCE IN HIM AND KNOWS THAT HE CAN RELY ON HIS LOYALTY. AND, WHILE SOME DIFFERENCES WILL BE INEVITABLE (MY TUR), HE WILL DO HIS UTMOST TO AVOID BEING DRAWN INTO SERIOUS RIVALRY WITH SHULTZ AS THE PRINCIPLE ARCHITECT OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY.

7. THE APPOINTMENT IS GOOD NEWS FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. MCFARLANE WILL BE A STEADYING INFLUENCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND HAS BEEN UNFAILINGLY FRIENDLY AND WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS BRITAIN. OUR DEALINGS WITH HIM ON SOME SENSITIVE ISSUES HAVE LEFT US WITH THE HIGHEST REGARD FOR HIS PROFESSIONALISM, HIS JUDGEMENT AND HIS STRAIGHT-FORWARDNESS.

FCO PASS SAVING BONN, PARIS, UKDEL NATO.

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