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FM WASHINGTON 072240Z NOV 84  
TO PRIORITY F C O  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 3322 OF 7 NOVEMBER  
INFO CG NEW YORK, BIS NEW YORK, NATO POSTS, MOSCOW, DUBLIN, TOKYO  
INFO SAVINGS CONSUL GENERALS IN USA

MY TELNO 3309 (NOT TO ALL): US ELECTION RESULTS

## SUMMARY

1. A PERSONAL TRIUMPH FOR THE PRESIDENT, WITH THE EXPECTED LANDSLIDE IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE, BUT LITTLE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN CONGRESS.

## DETAIL

2. THE PRESIDENT DEFEATED WALTER MONDALE BY 59 PER CENT - 41 PER CENT IN THE POPULAR VOTE AND BY 525 - 13 IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE. MONDALE CARRIED ONLY MINNESOTA (HIS HOME STATE) AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT'S SHARE OF THE POPULAR VOTE IS LESS THAN NIXON'S IN 1972, AND JOHNSON'S IN 1964, THE SIZE OF HIS ELECTORAL COLLEGE VICTORY IS A RECORD. ONLY LONDON, IN 1936, WON FEWER ELECTORAL VOTES THAN MONDALE (IN A SMALLER COLLEGE).

3. ACCORDING TO EXIT POLLS, THE PRESIDENT WON A MAJORITY AMONG ALL AGE GROUPS, AND MOST SOCIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS. MANY COMMENTATORS HAVE REMARKED ON THE SCALE OF THE QUOTE WHITE DRIFT UNQUOTE TO THE REPUBLICANS ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTH. ONLY BLACKS, JEWS AND THE VERY POOR VOTED HEAVILY FOR MONDALE. THE PRESIDENT MADE FURTHER INROADS INTO THE DIMINISHING DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY AMONG TRADE UNION HOUSEHOLDS. FERRARO'S CANDIDACY DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE HELPED THE DEMOCRATS WITH CATHOLICS OR ETHNIC VOTERS. THE POLLING FIGURES SHOW A SIZEABLE QUOTE GENDER GAP UNQUOTE, BUT EVEN SO 55 PER CENT OF WOMEN VOTED FOR THE PRESIDENT.

4. THE REPUBLICANS RETAIN CONTROL OF THE SENATE BUT WITH A REDUCED MAJORITY, THE DEMOCRATS GAINING IN ILLINOIS (SIMON), IOWA (HARKIN) AND TENNESSEE (GORE), AND LOSING ONLY IN KENTUCKY, FOR A NET GAIN OF TWO. THIS SCORE IS MUCH AS PREDICTED AND IS UNLIKELY SIGNIFICANTLY TO ALTER THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE UPPER HOUSE, ALTHOUGH THE DEPARTURE OF BAKER AND THE PRESSURE OF REPUBLICAN QUOTE GYPSY MOTHS UNQUOTE LIKE MATHIAS WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE NEW REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP TO ASSERT PARTY DISCIPLINE. SPECULATION CENTRES ON WHETHER HELMS WILL SEEK TO FILL PERCY'S SHOES AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. HE IS AT PRESENT CHAIRMAN OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE. IT IS THE SOURCE OF HIS STRENGTH IN NORTH CAROLINA: HE SAID BEFORE THE ELECTION THAT HE WOULD RETAIN IT: AND HE CAN'T HAVE BOTH. BUT

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HE WILL BE SORELY TEMPTED TO TAKE OVER THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND IT WILL BE BAD NEWS IF HE DOES.

5. THE COUNT IS NOT YET COMPLETE IN ALL THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RACES, BUT THE NETWORKS ARE PREDICTING A NET REPUBLICAN GAIN OF ABOUT 15 SEATS. THIS IS LESS THAN THE REPUBLICANS HAD HOPED FOR IN THE FINAL STAGE OF THE CAMPAIGN, AND MEANS THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RECREATE THE BIPARTISAN CONSERVATIVE COALITION WHICH PREVAILED IN 1981/2. JAMES BAKER, WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF, COMMENTED TODAY THAT ON THE CENTRAL DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES THE GOING IN CONGRESS WOULD BE AS, OR MORE, DIFFICULT IN THE SECOND REAGAN TERM.

6. 13 STATE GOVERNORS RACES WERE ALSO DECIDED YESTERDAY. WITH ONE STATE STILL UNDECIDED, THEY SPLIT 8/4 FOR THE REPUBLICANS, A NET GAIN AT PRESENT OF TWO.

7. FOR FULL ASSESSMENTS OF THE RESULTS, AND OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROBABLE POLICIES IN HIS SECOND TERM, SEE MY DESPATCHES OF 6 AND 7 NOVEMBER.

WRIGHT  
FCO|WH|PALACE  
NAD

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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