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TO ROUTINE FCO
TELNO 157
OF 141550Z JULY 86

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Mrs. Ryder
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OUR TELNO 147: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO NORWAY

1. FOLLOWING IS RESPONSE TO MISS GOLDSMITH'S LETTER OF 27 JUNE TO DICKSON (NUMBERED TO CORRESPOND WITH PARAGRAPHS IN LETTER):

(3) WE HAVE DISCUSSED PRESS ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE MFA PRESS OFFICE. SUITABLE ACCOMODATION IS PERENIALLY VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND IN OSLO, AND SO WE NEED THE EARLIEST INDICATION OF NUMBER OF ROOMS TO BE BOOKED. MFA HAVE OFFERED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY TRANSPORT 'ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS', BY WHICH THEY MEAN THAT IF LOCAL BRITISH JOURNALISTS (6) AND LEADING NORWEGIAN JOURNALISTS (6 OR SO) COULD TRAVEL IN THE RAF VC-10, THEY WILL PROVIDE A BUS IN OSLO. IF NOT, NOT (WE JUDGE). GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POINT. THE MFA REQUIRE PHOTOGRAPHS AS WELL AS BASIC INFORMATION ON EACH MEMBER OF THE BRITISH PRESS TO BE ACCREDITED.

(5) THE NORWEGIANS ARE CONTENT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR THATCHER SHOULD STAY AT THE RESIDENCE. IN ADDITION, THERE IS UNFORTUNATELY NO ROOM FOR MORE THAN ONE PRIVATE SECRETARY AND ONE DETECTIVE. THE GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE CAN ACCOMMODATE UP TO SIX PEOPLE. WE HAVE THEREFORE BOOKED 14 SINGLE ROOMS AT THE RITZ HOTEL (THE NEAREST TO THE EMBASSY, AND OF REASONABLE THOUGH NOT LUXURIOUS STANDARD), TWO OF WHICH ARE BOOKED FROM 9 SEPTEMBER FOR ONE DETECTIVE AND CONFERENCE OFFICER. THE HOTEL DOES NOT HAVE SUITES BUT WE HAVE BOOKED ONE DOUBLE ROOM WHICH CAN BE USED BY THE ASSISTANT PRESS SECRETARY IN ADDITION TO HIS SINGLE ROOM. PLEASE NOTE THAT WE SHOULD HAVE EARLY WARNING IF MORE ROOMS ARE REQUIRED.

(6) THE STUDY IN THE RESIDENCE CAN BE USED AS A PRIVATE OFFICE. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT VERY LARGE AND SO WE WOULD BE HARD PUSHED TO PUT IN 4 DESKS PLUS A LOCKABLE CUPBOARD AND PHOTOCOPIER. WE HOPE THEREFORE THAT, FOR THE SHORT TIME WHICH IT WILL BE REQUIRED, SOMETHING RATHER LESS THAN THIS WILL SUFFICE.

(7) TWO ELECTRIC IBM SELECTRIC 3 TYPEWRITERS WILL BE SUPPLIED. THE EMBASSY CANNOT, HOWEVER, SUPPLY A PHOTOCOPIER. RANK XEROX OFFICE IN OSLO CAN SUPPLY A 1035 PHOTOCOPIER WITH COLLATOR AT NORWEGIAN KRONER 4,200 (£367) EXCLUDING PAPER WHICH THE EMBASSY CAN HOWEVER SUPPLY. THIS IS FOR ONE MONTH (MINIMUM HIRE PERIOD).

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(8) WE HAVE TWO REGISTRY/CYPHER STAFF. SINCE TWO STAFF WILL BE REQUIRED ON EACH SHIFT FOR REGISTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS WORK, WE SUGGEST TWO COMMUNICATORS SHOULD BE SENT FROM UK. THE EMBASSY SWITCHBOARD CAN BE OPERATED ON A 24-HOUR BASIS USING OUR TWO SECURITY OFFICERS OUTSIDE NORMAL WORKING HOURS. DIRECT DIALLING FACILITIES OSLO/LONDON ARE VERY GOOD: IMMEDIATE CONTACT IS NORMALLY NO PROBLEM. THERE ARE EMBASSY SWITCHBOARD EXTENSIONS IN THE RESIDENCE GUEST BEDROOMS AND IN THE STUDY, ALL OF WHICH CAN BE FIXED TO ALLOW DIRECT DIALLING TO THE UK. THE RESIDENCE HAS ITS OWN OUTSIDE LINE (55 91 81) WITH EXTENSIONS IN SEVERAL ROOMS. BUT INCOMING CALLS ARE BEST PUT THROUGH THE EMBASSY SWITCHBOARD AS THEY CAN BE SWITCHED TO ANY REQUIRED EXTENSION. WE HAVE ARRANGED FOR THE CTSD ENGINEER (BASED IN COPENHAGEN) TO BE IN OSLO DURING THE VISIT. THE TIMES, GUARDIAN (NOT ALWAYS), MAIL, SUN, MIRROR, EXPRESS AND FINANCIAL TIMES CAN BE BOUGHT LOCALLY ON THE DAY OF ISSUE.

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(11) AVERAGE SEPTEMBER TEMPERATURES ARE 11 DEGREES C IN OSLO AND 7 DEGREES C IN TROMSO. CLOTHING SHOULD BE SUITABLE FOR LATE SEPTEMBER/EARLY OCTOBER IN THE UK AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO COPE WITH RAIN. THE DEGREE OF FORMALITY REQUIRED IS SIMILAR TO THAT IN LONDON. DINNER ON 11 SEPTEMBER WILL BE BLACK TIE/LONG DRESS. THE PRIME MINISTER WILL NOT NEED TO WEAR A HAT AT THE LUNCH WITH THE KING ON 12 SEPTEMBER, BUT IS WELCOME TO DO SO IF SHE WISHES. IF SO, LADY MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD WILL ALSO DO SO: GRATEFUL THEREFORE FOR EARLY ADVICE ON THIS POINT.

(12) THE NORWEGIANS WILL PROVIDE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER (AND MR THATCHER) A BULLET-PROOF MERCEDES (SEMI-COLON) AND CARS FOR 8 MORE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY. THE AMBASSADOR'S CAR WILL TRANSPORT HMA AND LADY BENTLEY. THE EMBASSY WILL BE ABLE TO SUPPLY A CAR AND DRIVER FOR SAFE-HAND RUNS, BUT NOTHING FOR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION. A MERCEDES WITH DRIVER TO CARRY THREE (OR FOUR, IF ACCEPTABLE) PASSENGERS COSTS APPROX £29 PER HOUR. GRATEFUL EARLY ADVICE ON YOUR REQUIREMENT. THE NORWEGIANS WILL PROVIDE A BAGGAGE VAN ON ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE.

(13) LANDING/IMMIGRATION CARDS ARE NOT REQUIRED.

(14) WE SHALL ADVISE ON HAIRDRESSING AFTER CONSULTING LADY BENTLEY (AT PRESENT IN UK).

(15) THE MFA PROTOCOL OFFICER HAS BEEN INFORMED.

(16) THIS WILL BE ARRANGED.

(17) WE SHALL HAVE THE NECESSARY STOCKS. PRICES: WHISKY (LITRE) £4.50, GIN (LITRE) £4.50, BRANDY (0.7 LITRE) £8.20, 200 TIPPED CIGARETTES £5.50.

(18) NOTED. BRITISH SPARKLING MINERAL WATER IS NOT LOCALLY AVAILABLE. WE SHALL PROVIDE NORWEGIAN MINERAL WATER. THIS IS FIRST CLASS AND COMMERCIALY BOTTLED FROM THE KING'S OWN SPRING. IN VIEW OF THIS, DO YOU WISH THE LABELS TO BE REMOVED FOR THE PRESS CONFERENCE? WE CAN DO SO IF NECESSARY.

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(19) IT IS, WE UNDERSTAND, THE NORMAL PRACTICE FOR VISITING PRIME MINISTERS NOT (NOT) TO EXCHANGE GIFTS, AND SO THEY MAY NOT BE NECESSARY ON THIS OCCASION. IF, HOWEVER, THE PRIME MINISTER WISHED TO GIVE MRS BRUNDTLAND A GIFT THIS WILL BE WELL RECEIVED, AND RECIPROCATED. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE GIVEN THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UK AND NORWAY. AS TO THE NATURE OF THE GIFT, MRS (AND MR) BRUNDTLAND ARE VERY KEEN ON SAILING AND HAVE THEIR OWN SAILING BOAT (IN NORWAY, THIS DOES NOT DEBAR HER FROM BEING A SOCIALIST). A DECORATIVE OBJET (RATHER THAN A PIECE OF EQUIPMENT) FOR THIS YACHT WOULD, WE BELIEVE, BE MUCH APPRECIATE. THIS COULD BE EITHER SOMETHING NAUTICAL (EG A PICTURE OF A SHIP) OR SOMETHING WHICH WOULD SUIT EITHER ON THE YACHT OR OFF IT: EG A PIECE OF ENGLISH GLASS OR CHINA, SUCH AS A "HALCYON DAYS" ENAMEL POT (EITHER ANTIQUE OR MODERN, DEPENDING ON THE BUDGET). RELEVANT TO THIS DECISION IS OUR SEPARATE TELEGRAM (WHICH WILL FOLLOW WITHIN A WEEK) ON A PRESENT FOR THE KING.

LETTER SUGGESTING RECIPIENTS FOR PHOTOGRAPHS FOLLOWS BY BAG.

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