

CDP (91)

ZCZC  
OBL 1629  
RESTRICTED  
TT FCOLN  
FM OSLOO TO FCOLN  
251017Z AUG  
GRS 420

Prime Minister

You should be  
aware of this -  
it is marginal.

CDP 20/2

RESTRICTED  
FM OSLO  
TO TELELETTER FCO  
TELELETTER REF 026/2  
OF 251017Z AUGUST 86

FROM R G SHORT, OSLO  
FOLLOWING FOR D J M DAIN ESQ, WED, FCO  
C R BUDD ESQ, ASST PRIVATE SECRETARY TO SECRETARY OF  
STATE  
C D POWELL ESQ, NO 10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO NORWAY : DEMONSTRATIONS

1. ON 19 AUGUST MEMBERS OF ROD VALG ALLIANSE (AN EXTREME LEFTIST GROUP) ON THE TROMSO TOWN COUNCIL ANNOUNCED THAT ON THE FOLLOWING DAY THEY WOULD PROPOSE A MOTION THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD REFUSE HOSPITALITY TO MRS THATCHER WHILE SHE WAS IN TROMSO. THE REASONS WERE STATED TO BE MRS THATCHER'S POLICIES TOWARDS (A) SOUTH AFRICA, AND (B) BRITISH TRADE UNIONS.
2. FRANK MCGINLEY HAPPENED TO BE IN TROMSO, WITH CHRISTINE WALL AND SUPT WALLER, ON 20 AUGUST AND THEY DISCUSSED THIS WITH THE MAYOR SHORTLY BEFORE THE COUNCIL MEETING. RIAN SAID THAT HE WOULD VETO THE COUNCIL MOTION, A TACTIC WHICH HE HAD ALREADY AGREED WITH THE LABOUR PARTY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. THE MOTION WAS DULY SUPPRESSED. HOWEVER, THE LABOUR MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL DECLARED THAT THEY WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE HOSPITALITY BEING OFFERED TO MRS THATCHER, AND VARIOUS LEFT-WING SPOKESMEN HAVE SAID THAT THEY WILL STAGE BOTH A WORK STOPPAGE AND A DEMONSTRATION. THE NORWEGIAN MFA SPOKESMAN STATED THAT MRS THATCHER'S VISIT WAS IN RESPONSE TO A GOVERNMENT INVITATION AND THAT MRS BRUNDTLAND WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HOSPITALITY OFFERED TO HER. ALL THIS WAS REPORTED IN THE TROMSO PRESS (AND IN AN EDITORIAL IN BERGENS TIDENDE IN WHICH IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT MRS THATCHER SHOULD COME TO BERGEN WHERE SHE WOULD GET A PROPER WELCOME).
3. THE EVENTS IN TROMSO HAVE SPARKED OFF SIMILAR MOVES AMONG EXTREME LEFT WING ELEMENTS IN OSLO: AS YET THESE HAVE NEITHER BORNE FRUIT, NOR DIED.
4. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MFA TELEPHONED ME ON 22 AUGUST TO SAY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT GREATLY REGRETTED THESE DEVELOPMENTS, BUT DID NOT PROPOSE TO RESPOND (BEYOND THE STATEMENT QUOTED ABOVE) SINCE THEY WISH TO AVOID EXAGGERATING THE LEFT-WINGERS' IDEAS OF THEIR OWN IMPORTANCE. I SAID I WAS SURE THAT WAS RIGHT.

COMMENT

5. THERE MAY WELL BE SMALL DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST MRS THATCHER DURING HER VISIT, ESPECIALLY ON THE SUBJECT OF SOUTH AFRICA (AND, NO DOUBT, ACID RAIN). THERE MAY ALSO BE SOME FORM OF 'INDUSTRIAL ACTION'. BUT WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE DEMONSTRATIONS WILL NOT BE PEACEFUL, OR THAT IT WILL DISRUPT THE VISIT IN ANY WAY. THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT SHARE THIS VIEW. HOWEVER, WE SHALL OF COURSE KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON DEVELOPMENTS.

SIGNED R G SHORT

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OBLNAN 1629