

GRS 450

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MFA 27/8

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FM OSLO
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 208
OF261500Z AUGUST 86

FOLLOWING IS REVISED VERSION OF OSLO TELNO 208, WITH NEW PARA 3, ORIGINAL PARA 3 BECOMING PARA 4, AND ORIGINAL PARA 4 DELETED.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO NORWAY : FLIGHT FROM TROMSO TO OSLO

1. MFA HAVE TOLD US THAT MRS BRUNDTLAND WOULD BE VERY PLEASED IF MRS THATCHER WOULD TRAVEL WITH HER, IN THE NORWEGIAN VIP PLANE, FROM TROMSO TO OSLO ON 11 SEPTEMBER. MRS BRUNDTLAND WOULD LIKE TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSION. IN RESPONSE WE RECALLED THAT THIS IDEA HAD BEEN CONSIDERED WHEN MR WILLOCH WAS TO BE THE HOST, BUT THAT HE HAD DECIDED THAT HE SHOULD FLY AHEAD TO OSLO, IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO WELCOME THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE CAPITAL CITY. (MY TELNOS 60 AND 72.) MFA SAID THAT MRS BRUNDTLAND HAD DECIDED THAT THE ''FORMAL'' WELCOME TO NORWAY WOULD TAKE PLACE IN TROMSO, NOT OSLO (WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR THE FLIGHT).

2. THE NORWEGIAN PLANE (WHICH IS A FALCON) WILL TAKE 8 OR 9 PASSENGERS. THE NORWEGIANS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR THATCHER, MY WIFE AND I, AND AMBASSADOR BUSCH AND MRS BUSCH FROM LONDON, SHOULD FLY IN THE PLANE (MY WIFE AND I HAVE ALREADY ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO FLY IN IT FROM OSLO TO TROMSO). BUT I SEE FROM POWELL'S LETTER OF 26 APRIL TO BUDD THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S LIKELY WILLINGNESS IN PRINCIPLE TO TRAVEL SOUTH WITH MR WILLOCH WAS CONDITIONAL ON HAVING AT LEAST ONE PRIVATE SECRETARY AND ONE DETECTIVE ON THE AIRCRAFT. WITH TWO BRUNDTLANDS, AND PRESUMABLY A NORWEGIAN PRIVATE SECRETARY, THIS WOULD MAKE A TOTAL OF 11. THEREFORE, IF THE PRIME MINISTER WISHED TO TAKE UP MRS BRUNDTLAND'S OFFER, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR AT LEAST TWO OF THIS GROUP TO FLY ON THE VC 10. THE OBVIOUS ANSWER WOULD BE FOR MRS BUSCH AND MY WIFE TO DO THIS, AND IF NECESSARY BUSCH AND MYSELF ALSO.

3. ALTERNATIVELY, AFTER INITIAL DOUBTS THE MFA HAVE TOLD US THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCEPTABLE FOR MRS BRUNDTLAND AND HER IMMEDIATE ENTOURAGE TO TRAVEL IN THE VC10, IF THE PRIME MINISTER

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SO WISHED, IN ORDER TO AVOID THE FALCON'S SPACE CONSTRAINTS. HOWEVER I AM SURE THAT, IF THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS DO TRAVEL TOGETHER, THE NORWEGIANS WOULD FOR OBVIOUS REASONS PREFER THIS TO TAKE PLACE IN THE HOSTESS'S PLANE IF POSSIBLE.

4. GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS. THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO WILL BE SITTING NEXT TO MRS BRUNDTLAND AT DINNER THAT NIGHT, AS WELL AS HAVING TWO HOURS OF OFFICIAL TALKS THE FOLLOWING DAY, MAY FEEL THAT TO ACCOMPANY HER ON THE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING. ON THE OTHER HAND, MRS BRUNDTLAND HAS ISSUED THIS INVITATION PERSONALLY AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT ACCEPTANCE WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED AND SET A GOOD POSITIVE TONE FOR THE VISIT, AS WELL AS PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A STIMULATING CONVERSATION.

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