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CONFIDENTIAL
DEDIP
FROM WASHINGTON
TO IMMEDIATE FCO DESKBY 100830Z
TELNO 2848
OF 081830Z NOV 86

FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR POWELL (NO 10) FROM KERR.
YOUR TELNO 1940: CAMP DAVID
1. ACTION TAKEN ON 7 NOVEMBER, AND AGAIN ON 8 NOVEMBER: WE SHALL RETURN TO THE CHARGE EARLY NEXT WEEK. MEANWHILE I WOULD COUNSEL AGAINST YOUR TELEPHONING POINDEXTER, OR INDEED PRICE, WHICH COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AT THIS STAGE: LET'S FIRST SEE WHAT (A) IMPROVEMENT OF THE FORMAT OF THE PRE-LUNCH SESSION AND (B) EXPANSION OF THE TOTAL ENVELOPE CAN BE SECURED ON OUR CHANNELS.
2. OUR CONTACTS POINT OUT THAT THE TOTAL TIME SO FAR ALLOWED IS NO SHORTER THAN IN 1984: THAT LONGER MEETINGS, INVOLVING THE PRESIDENT THROUGHOUT, ARE EXTREMELY RARE:
THAT THE TETE-A-TETE SHOULD IN FACT RUN FOR THE FULL 50 MINUTES, SINCE THE GREETINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS SHOULD BE OVER BY 11 AM:
AND THAT THE LUNCH, AS IN 1984, WILL BE A WORKING OCCASION, AND AS SUCH WILL HAVE MUCH OF THE CHARACTER OF A PLENARY SESSION. BUT THEY TAKE OUR POINTS, AND WILL TRY TO MEET THEM, IN A REVISED PLAN.
3. MY HUNCH IS THAT ON THE US SIDE THERE WILL BE A BRIEFING SESSION (WITH SHULTZ, POINDEXTER AND RIDGWAY) BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES AT CAMP DAVID, AND THAT THIS MAY PROVE AN OBSTACLE TO OUR SECURING AN EARLIER START. WE MAY THEREFORE BE DRIVEN TO NEGOTIATE FOR A LATER FINISH. HOW SERIOUS WOULD BE THE PROBLEMS FOR BERNARD INGHAM (DEADLINES FOR THE SUNDAYS) IF THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE DELAYED TO, SAY, 1530?
4. I STRONGLY SUSPECT THAT ONE REASON FOR THE ABSENCE IN THE ORIGINAL PLANS OF ANY FORMAL PLENARY SESSION WAS THE WHITE HOUSE'S WISH (RESPONSIVE TO YOURS) TO KEEP US NUMBERS DOWN. I KNOW FROM DOD THAT WEINBERGER IS STILL BIDDING FOR A SEAT, AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN THOUGHT EASIER TO TURN HIM DOWN IF THE PROGRAMME SHOWED NO PLENARY.
AS YOU KNOW, WE THINK WEINBERGER'S INFLUENCE ON THE KEY ISSUE MIGHT ON THIS OCCASION, UNLIKE 1984, BE HELPFUL. GRATEFUL FOR A STEER ON HOW YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO REACT IF THE QUESTION OF HIS BID IS MENTIONED TO ME BY THE WHITE HOUSE.

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