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M. Giffard
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MY TELNO 943: PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT

1. WHEN I SAW DEEVER AND CLARK TODAY THE LATTER TOLD ME THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD DECIDED THIS MORNING TO ACCEPT THE IDEA OF SPEAKING IN THE ROYAL GALLERY. HIS AIM WAS TO DO WHATEVER THE PRIME MINISTER WANTED. CLARK AND DEEVER ASSUMED THAT THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAD ACCEPTED THE USE OF THE ROYAL GALLERY AND WOULD NOT BOYCOTT OR INTERRUPT THE CEREMONY. THEY ASKED WHETHER THEY WERE RIGHT IN ASSUMING THAT THE SPEECH WOULD STILL BE TELEVISED BECAUSE THIS WAS MOST IMPORTANT FOR U.S. AS WELL AS WORLDWIDE AUDIENCES.

2. WE HAD SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AND CLARK ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGHT IT SHOULD CONTAIN. I SAID THAT WE WOULD BE VERY READY AT ANY TIME TO HELP ON THIS BUT MY IMMEDIATE THOUGHT WAS THAT HE SHOULD OBVIOUSLY SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE ALLIANCE AND U.S./U K RELATIONS IN PARTICULAR, ABOUT EAST WEST RELATIONS AND ABOUT ARMS CONTROL. THE SPEECH WOULD BE EXTREMELY WIDELY VIEWED IN THE U K AND INDEED IN EUROPE AND IT SHOULD BE SEEN AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHECK ANTI-AMERICANISM THERE.

3. I SAID THAT WE WOULD BE ANNOUNCING FROM NO 10 EARLY TOMORROW MORNING, THE 24TH MARCH, THE DECISION TO USE THE ROYAL GALLERY NOW THAT I KNEW THAT THE PRESIDENT ACCEPTED THIS. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF A STATEMENT COULD MADE BY THE WHITE HOUSE WELCOMING THIS DECISION AFTER IT WAS ANNOUNCED. DEEVER SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE DONE.

WELCOMING THIS DECISION AFTER IT WAS ANNOUNCED. DEAVER SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE DONE.

4. WE HAD SOME TALK ABOUT THE PROGRAMME AND INEVITABLY ABOUT THE RIDE. CLARK THINKS HE WOULD NOT SUGGEST JOINING THE RIDE IF THERE WAS NO-ONE ELSE TAKING PART EXCEPT FOR THE QUEEN AND THE PRESIDENT. BUT IF THERE WOULD BE OTHERS RIDING HE WOULD LIKE TO DO SO. THE SUBJECT OF RIDING WAS ALSO TOUCHED ON IN A WORD WE HAD ABOUT EXCHANGES OF PRESENTS (I MADE CLEAR THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DECORATIONS). DEAVER SAID THAT THE TROUBLE WAS THAT ANY PRESENT WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN UP BY THE PRESIDENT AFTER HE CEASED TO HOLD THE OFFICE. HOWEVER, HE WAS SURE THAT HE WOULD LIKE AN ENGLISH SADDLE AND THIS COULD HAVE A PRIZE PLACE IN WHATEVER MUSEUM WAS CREATED FOR REAGAN. ALTERNATIVELY A MODEL OF A HORSE IN BRONZE MIGHT BE AN IDEA. CLARK INTERJECTED THAT THE PRESIDENT COULD ALWAYS QUOTE USE MORE LEATHER UNQUOTE, BY WHICH I THINK HE MEANT THAT AN ENGLISH SADDLE AND BRIDLE WOULD BE WELCOME.

5. DEAVER TOLD ME THAT HIS UNDERSTANDING FROM HIS TALKS IN LONDON HAD BEEN THAT THE LUNCH WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WAS GOING TO BE ON TUESDAY, THE 8TH, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT. THIS WAS IN FACT THE ONLY TIME THE PRESIDENT COULD MANAGE BECAUSE HE WOULD HAVE TO BE LEAVING ON WEDNESDAY MORNING AT AROUND 11.30 BY AIR FOR BONN. I SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT MY IDEA OF WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED IN LONDON NOR DID IT TALLY WITH THE OUTLINE THAT I HAD SENT TO HIS OFFICE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. HOWEVER IF THIS WAS A DEFINITE DECISION I WOULD INFORM LONDON IMMEDIATELY. DEAVER SAID THAT HE HOPED THE MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER COULD TAKE PLACE ON THE TUESDAY MORNING BETWEEN SAY 10.30 AND 11.30. THE RIDE WOULD THEN OCCUR EARLY ON THE WEDNESDAY MORNING SAY AT 9.00 AM. THE AIM WOULD BE TO TAKE A HELICOPTER FROM WINDSOR CASTLE AT ABOUT 11 AM AND TAKE OFF FROM HEATHROW AT 11.30.

6. WE TALKED ABOUT THE QUOTE MEET THE PEOPLE UNQUOTE ITEM. DEAVER WAS NOT AT HIS MOST CONSTRUCTIVE ON THIS SUBJECT SUGGESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT DRIVE DOWN TO WINDSOR AFTER THE LUNCH AT NO 10 ON THE TUESDAY AND STOP AT ONE OR TWO VILLAGES ON THE WAY TO WINDSOR. HE SAID THAT THE SECURITY PEOPLE WERE LESS WORRIED ABOUT THE PRESIDENT MEETING PEOPLE IN VILLAGES THAN IN BIG TOWNS. I TOLD HIM ABOUT THE SOMEWHAT BUILT-UP NATURE OF THE LANDSCAPE BETWEEN LONDON AND WINDSOR. IF YOU AGREE I THINK THAT FURTHER THOUGHT WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO THIS ITEM OF THE PROGRAMME ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT WE ARE REALLY STARTING FROM SCRATCH. DEAVER WAS TEMPTED BY THE IDEA OF CHURCHILL'S QUOTE BURIAL PLACE UNQUOTE BUT I TOLD HIM IT WAS REALLY RATHER FAR FOR A HELICOPTER.

RECEPTION THAT HE WOULD BE LEFT STARTING FROM COMMONS
TEMPTED BY THE IDEA OF CHURCHILL'S QUOTE BURIAL PLACE UNQUOTE BUT
I TOLD HIM IT WAS REALLY RATHER FAR FOR A HELICOPTER.

7. TO SUM UP:

- I) THERE WAS NO TROUBLE ABOUT THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT TOMORROW ON THE ROYAL GALLERY.
- II) THE AMERICANS ARE ASSUMING THAT THE LUNCH WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE ON THE TUESDAY. THEY KNOW THAT SHE HAS QUESTIONS EARLY THAT AFTERNOON AND SEE NO REASON WHY THE LUNCH SHOULD NOT END AT 2.15.
- III) WE WOULD HAVE TO GIVE FURTHER THOUGHT TO THE QUOTE MEET THE PEOPLE UNQUOTE EPISODE.
- IV) AS REGARDS MRS REAGAN'S PROGRAMME SHE WILL ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT TO PARLIAMENT AND PRESUMABLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S LUNCH. MARY WILL BE SEEING HER TOMORROW TO DISCUSS THE VISIT SO PERHAPS YOU COULD LET ME KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY IDEAS YOU WANT TO FIT IN ABOUT SOME SUITABLE GOOD WORK THAT MRS REAGAN COULD DO EARLY ON THE TUESDAY MORNING.

HENDERSON

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