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July 31, 1981

NOVA HAS SEEN

ACTION

598002 #101

*CLS*

7/21/81

MEMORANDUM FOR: RICHARD V. ALLEN *Ri*  
FROM: JAMES M. RENTSCHLER  
SUBJECT: John Louis On A Drifting UK *JK*

If you haven't seen the full text of John Louis' first major political report from Embassy London, it is worth a reading. John paints a very sobering picture of the present mood in that country and its implications for us. His view might well be of interest to the President, and with that in mind I have done a covering summary which you can forward to him (Tab I). ~~407~~

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memo to the President at Tab I.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ As Amended *RM*

cc: Jim Lilley

Tab I Memo to the President  
A - Cable from John Louis

*cc of EM JAB*

*Jo* - Thanks. Good analysis.  
Send it on, as amended, retype cable. Instead of underlining, highlight with my color of highlighter.

*Jim - prepare a short letter for me to read to Lewis after this goes forward, just letting him know that I have sent it to (D) and that I have...*

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Review on July 31, 1981

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~~SECRET~~THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON~~SECRET WITH  
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Britain Drifts (S)

~~Though it was briefly summarized in this week's cable round-ups, you might care to read John Louis' first major report from his London post ~~for its~~ <sup>same</sup> flavor of the troubling political, social, and economic drift he discerns in Great Britain (Tab A). John's key points are these:~~

- Thatcher has lost her grip on the political rudder;
- The Labor Party, though increasingly fragmented, could prove harmful to our security interests even if reduced to a splinter group;
- With no British leader seeming to have a clear idea of where or how to go, some political turbulence is likely, with adverse effect on the country's reliability as a U.S. ally. (S)

John believes that a visit by you to the UK early next year could significantly strengthen both British resolve and the Western Alliance itself. I agree. (S)

Attachment

Tab A Cable from John Louis

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Review on July 31, 1987

598002 #102

CIS

7/21/80

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 17, 1981

Dear John:

Warm thanks for your note of July 21. I was pleased to hear that the pictures arrived intact and that you can make effective use of them.

Since that letter arrived, we have also received your London 14343, a very impressive report. Indeed, I considered this message important enough to bring to the President's personal attention. The quality of your early reporting reconfirms what all of us knew from the start: we have the right man in the right place at the right time.

Sincerely,



Richard V. Allen  
Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

The Honorable John J. Louis, Jr.  
American Ambassador  
London

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