

CONFIDENTIAL

1.

PRIME MINISTER

US ENERGY PROGRAMME

M. Wahl of President Giscard's office telephoned me today to say that the President wanted you to know that he had spoken to President Carter at Camp David last night about the follow-up to what had been agreed on energy at the Tokyo Summit. President Carter told President Giscard that he planned to announce a new energy programme for the United States on Sunday, 15 July. He planned to give you, President Giscard, Chancellor Schmidt and Signor Andreotti advance notice, which might amount to 6-12 hours, of what he was going to say. He hoped that you and your European colleagues would be ready to give public support for his programme.

M. Wahl went on to say that President Giscard thought that if the European leaders were to express a view on the American programme, they should try to coordinate their response so that each of them took a similar line. Wahl said that he might want to get in touch with me and with the offices of Chancellor Schmidt and Signor Andreotti on Sunday in order to consider whether we should all take a similar line and what that line should be.

I told M. Wahl that I was sure that you would be grateful to President Giscard for letting you know of his conversation with President Carter, and that I would wait to hear further from him at the weekend or early next week. In fact, until we know what the content of the American programme is, it is not easy to judge how much support we shall be able to offer the Americans or whether we shall be able readily to work out a common line with our European partners. I have told the Department of Energy, the FCO, and the Treasury of M. Wahl's message and warned them that we may need urgent advice from them over the weekend about President Carter's message, though I rather doubt whether we need to rush *quite so fast* to form a view on the American programme and to coordinate a line with our European partners. I do not think there is much more that we can do until the President's message arrives.

*We need to rush a message.*

/ M. Wahl

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M. Wahl also said that President Carter had told President Giscard that he might want to propose that Energy Ministers should hold a meeting in Europe at the end of August or the beginning of September. Wahl added, however, that President Carter had not made clear what precisely the purpose of such a meeting would be.

Finally, M. Wahl said that President Giscard was very pleased with the way things were moving on Madame Veil's candidature for the Presidency of the European Assembly.

*Wahl.*

12 July 1979

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