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FOLLOWING FORPUS.

AMU 026/24

MRS THATCHER'S VISIT.

1. WHEN I CALLED ON DR BRZEZINSKI THIS MORNING, HE TOLD ME THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WERE GRAPPLING WITH A TRICKY PROTOCOL PROBLEM OVER MRS THATCHER'S REQUEST TO SEE THE PRESIDENT DURING HER VISIT IN SEPTEMBER. MR MITTERAND WAS ALSO DUE IN WASHINGTON AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT IT WOULD NOT BE EASILY UNDERSTOOD BY PRESIDENT GISCARD IF THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED MR MITTERAND. BUT HOW WOULD THE WHITE HOUSE JUSTIFY THE PRESIDENT RECEIVING MRS THATCHER AND NOT MR MITTERAND?
2. DR BRZEZINSKI TOLD ME THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WAS PLAYING WITH THREE POSSIBLE FORMULAE:-
 - (A) A BLANKET RULE THAT OPPOSITION LEADERS WERE ALWAYS SEEN BY THE VICE PRESIDENT;
 - (B) A RULE BASED ON A DISTINCTION BETWEEN LEADERS OF GENUINELY DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN OPPOSITION, WHO COULD BE SEEN BY THE PRESIDENT, AND LEADERS OF COALITIONS INVOLVING NON-DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS, WHO WOULD NOT BE SEEN BY THE PRESIDENT; AND
 - (C) THE BLANKET RULE AT (A) ABOVE; MODIFIED IN MRS THATCHER'S CASE BY RECOGNITION THAT A PERSONAL PROMISE HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN TO MRS THATCHER AND THAT THE WHITE HOUSE DID NOT BELIEVE IN RETROACTIVE LEGISLATION.
3. I MADE IT CLEAR THAT MRS THATCHER WOULD BE VERY DISAPPOINTED IF THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT WHICH SHE EXPECTED WAS NOT HELD. I MENTIONED HER FORMAL STATUS AS LEADER OF HER MAJESTY'S LOYAL OPPOSITION. I SAID THAT, WHILE I OF COURSE UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFICULTIES, WE NATURALLY HOPED THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WOULD FIND A WAY OF ARRANGING IT.

JAY

FILES

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