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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NO 2058 OF 24 JULY

Prime Minister  
 [Signature]  
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MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER

1. AFTER THE EXCHANGE OF FORMALITIES AT THE CREDENTIALS CEREMONY TODAY, PRESIDENT CARTER SPOKE ABOUT ONE OR TWO PARTICULAR ASPECTS THAT I AM REPORTING SEPARATELY.
2. HE BEGAN OUR TALK BY SPEAKING OF THE GREAT IMPORTANCE TO HIM OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE WAS GLAD THAT SUCH A GOOD BASIS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH THE NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT. HE GREATLY ADMIRERD THE WAY THE PRIME MINISTER WAS TACKLING THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS CONFRONTING HER. HE, AND THE OTHERS AT TOKYO, HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY HER CONTRIBUTION THERE: IT WAS THANKS TO MRS THATCHER'S INITIATIVES THAT THE TOKYO SUMMIT HAD SUCCEEDED.
3. THE PRESIDENT SAID ALSO THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD OF THE USEFUL CONVERSATIONS THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE HAD HAD LAST WEEK WITH DR HAROLD BROWN.
4. I RECIPROCATED WITH SOME GENERAL REMARKS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ATTACHED TO RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND LONDON. I SAID THAT IN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THERE WAS NO INCOMPATIBILITY BETWEEN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH EUROPE AND CLOSE RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON. INDEED THEY WERE COMPLEMENTARY. THE NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT WERE ADOPTING A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT APPROACH TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BUT THIS IN NO WAY AFFECTED THE GREAT WEIGHT THEY ATTACHED TO THE TRANS-ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP.
5. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT HE AND HIS STAFF WERE ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION AND HE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE BEST OF RELATIONS.

HENDERSON

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