

CONFIDENTIAL

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FM WASHINGTON 091600Z MAR 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 796 OF 9 MARCH

MY TELNO 781: PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT

1. DEAVER HAS JUST TELEPHONED ME ON GETTING BACK FROM THE WEST COAST. HE SAID THAT HE WAS DEEPLY DISTRESSED TO HEAR THE TROUBLE HE HAD CAUSED. HE HAD UNDERSTOOD DURING HIS VISIT TO LONDON THAT AN INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO THE PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES IN WESTMINSTER HALL. HE HAD SPOKEN ABOUT THIS TO ABOUT TWENTY NEWSPAPERMEN ON THE WEST COAST.
2. I TOLD HIM ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY WITH THE LABOUR PARTY. THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT THE STRENGTH OF THE REACTIONS TO THE STORY. DEAVER ASKED ME WHETHER IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE WOULD BE CANCELLING THAT ITEM OF THE PROGRAMME. I REPLIED THAT THE LABOUR PARTY WOULD BE MEETING ON THE SUBJECT THIS WEEK. WE HAD TO SEE WHAT THE OUTCOME WAS AND HOW OPINION DEVELOPED. THERE MIGHT BE ROOM FOR MOVEMENT. I TOLD DEAVER OF MY TALK WITH HAIG OF WHICH HE WAS IN IGNORANCE.
3. HE ASKED ME WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT COULD BE DONE AND I SAID THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL NOT TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE. THE US AMBASSADOR IN LONDON MIGHT HAVE VIEWS. DEAVER SAID THAT HE WOULD RING HIM. I MENTIONED THAT HAIG HAD SPOKEN TO HIM.
4. DEAVER REPEATED HIS GREAT REGRET AT WHAT HE HAD DONE: AND HE EVIDENTLY WISHED THIS TO BE CONVEYED APPROPRIATELY.

HENDERSON

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT
LIMITED

PCD
NAD
DEF DEPT
NEWS DEPT
PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
MR BULLARD
MR WRIGHT

MR URE
MR GILLMORE
CABINET OFFICE

COPIES TO:

SIR PHILIP MOORE, BUCKINGHAM PALACE
SIR J JOHNSTON, LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S
OFFICE, ST JAMES'S PALACE
PS/SIR R ARMSTRONG, CABINET OFFICE
MR COLES PS NO 10 DOWNING STREET

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

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