

ZCZC
HPSJAN 1661
LNHPAN 3306 OCMIAN 4437
SECRET
DD 030001Z SEOUL
FM FCOLN TO SEOUL
022000Z MAY
GRS 1085

2

SECRET
DEDIP
FM FCO
TO DESKBY 030001Z SEOUL
TELNO 230
OF 022000Z MAY 86

FOLLOWING FOR WICKS, PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY FROM FLESHER, NO 10.

FOLLOWING ARE POINTS OF WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT LIKE TO BE AWARE OR ON WHICH DECISIONS ARE REQUIRED. I AM ARRANGING FOR THE MATERIAL WHICH YOU HAVE COMMISSIONED ON THE SOVIET NUCLEAR INCIDENT TO BE TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY.

PRISONS

THE HOME OFFICE TALKS WITH THE PRISON OFFICERS ASSOCIATION WENT AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED TODAY. THE POA ACCEPTED THE HOME SECRETARY'S FORMULA ON SUSPENSIONS, I.E. THAT OFFICERS COULD LIFT THEIR SUSPENSIONS BY AGREEING TO NORMAL WORKING. THEY ALSO ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE THE HOME SECRETARY'S FORMULA FOR THE SIMULTANEOUS CALLING OFF OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION AND THE DISCUSSION OF AN AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE. THE POA SEEM ANXIOUS TO FIND SOME WAY OF GETTING OFF THE HOOK OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION BUT WILL REQUIRE ANOTHER BALLOT TO DO SO. THEY ARE SEEKING QUOTE CLARIFICATION UNQUOTE OF POINTS FROM THE HOME SECRETARY'S 22 APRIL LETTER TO ENABLE THEM TO GO BACK TO THEIR MEMBERSHIP. THE CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS FOR TEMPORARY PRISONS ARE GOING AHEAD: ONE CAMP WILL BE READY BY NEXT TUESDAY. THE EMERGENCY BILL ON POWERS ETC IS ALSO READY. TALKS WILL BE RESUMED NEXT WEDNESDAY AND NO INDUSTRIAL ACTION IS EXPECTED OVER THE WEEKEND.

NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NUCLEAR ACCIDENT FOR THIS COUNTRY, THE NATIONAL RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION BOARD HAVE ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT REMNANTS OF THE CLOUD RESULTING FROM THE ACCIDENT, NOW GREATLY DILUTED, HAS REACHED BRITAIN. MATERIAL FROM THE CLOUD WAS DETECTED TODAY IN SOUTH EAST ENGLAND AT VARIOUS ESTABLISHMENTS INCLUDING THOSE AT CHILTERN AND DUNGENESS. QUOTE CONCENTRATIONS OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL ARE VERY LOW, A SMALL FRACTION OF THOSE DETECTED IN SWEDEN. SINCE THE NRPB HAVE ALREADY CHECKED ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE FROM THE PLACES KNOWN TO BE AFFECTED BY THE ACCIDENT, AND FOUND THEM TO BE SAFE, IT IS CLEAR PEOPLE IN THE UK WILL NOT BE PLACED AT RISK BY THE CLOUD. UNQUOTE. FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE FRACTION TO WHICH THE STATEMENT REFERS IS ABOUT ONE-HUNDREDTH. THE SITUATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE MONITORED CLOSELY OVER THE WEEKEND AND WHILE IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT ANY FURTHER STEPS WILL BE REQUIRED, I SHALL ENSURE THAT YOU ARE TOLD IMMEDIATELY IF SUCH ACTION IS CONTEMPLATED.

MARKETS

THE FINANCIAL MARKETS HAVE BEEN VERY QUIET TODAY. STERLING FINISHED AT DOLLARS 1.520, DEUTSCHMARK 3.36, STERLING INDEX 76.00 AND THREE MONTH INTERBANK RATE JUST UNDER 10.5.

LIBYA

MR. POWELL SHOULD BE AWARE THAT CRANLEY ONSLOW MP PUT DOWN A QUESTION WHICH IS DIFFERENT FROM THE FORMULA WHICH WE HAD DISCUSSED. IT READS:

QUOTE TO ASK THE PRIME MINISTER WHETHER THERE ARE ANY CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH UNITED STATES AIRCRAFT BASED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM CAN BE USED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT SEMICOLON AND IF SHE WILL MAKE A STATEMENT UNQUOTE.

THIS REQUIRES MODIFICATION OF THE DRAFT REPLY. MALLABY SUGGESTS:

QUOTE) THERE ARE NO SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. OUR AGREEMENT WAS REQUIRED, WAS SOUGHT AND WAS GIVEN IN THE CASE OF THE RECENT LIBYAN OPERATION. IF THE UNITED STATES EVER AGAIN WISHED TO USE BASES IN THIS COUNTRY IN CONNECTION WITH A MILITARY OPERATION THEY WERE PLANNING, OUR CONSENT WOULD AGAIN BE REQUIRED UNQUOTE.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THIS DRAFT REPLY MIGHT BE OPEN TO CRITICISM ON ONE VERY NARROW AND RATHER THEORETICAL GROUND. THERE IS AN EXCEPTION IN THE AGREED NATO PROCEDURES FOR CONSULTATION WHICH PERMITS SACEUR TO RESPOND TO A SURPRISE ATTACK BY THE USE OF CONVENTIONALLY (NOT NUCLEAR) ARMED AIRCRAFT, WITHOUT SEEKING PRIOR NATO POLITICAL AGREEMENT. BUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN THIS IS ALLOWED, I.E. ACTUAL OR IMMINENT ATTACK, ARE ONES WHERE THE UNITED KINGDOM WOULD BE SURE TO GIVE CONSENT. TO OMIT THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE DRAFT REPLY WOULD SOUND EVASIVE.

PLUTONIUM

DAFYDD ELIS THOMAS MP HAS PUT DOWN A QUESTION QUOTE TO ASK THE PRIME MINISTER WHY FOLLOWING HER REPLY TO THE HON MEMBER FOR ISLINGTON SOUTH (CHRIS SMITH) HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN ANSWERING SUCH QUESTIONS HAS ALTERED SINCE 4 FEBRUARY 1983. UNQUOTE. (THE DATE OF THE JOHN MOORE QUESTION).

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG'S ADVICE IS THAT THE ANSWER SHOULD REAFFIRM THE PRIME MINISTER'S EARLIER STATEMENT THAT SHE CANNOT ANSWER ON THIS MATTER FOR PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS WHILE LEAVING OPEN THE QUESTION WHETHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS UNDER PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS MIGHT BE MADE PUBLIC IN SOME OTHER WAY SUBJECT TO THE PROPER CONSULTATION. HE THEREFORE PROPOSES AN ANSWER ON THE FOLLOWING LINES:

QUOTE IT IS THE CONVENTION THAT MINISTERS ARE ANSWERABLE IN PARLIAMENT ONLY FOR MATTERS FALLING WITHIN THE PERIOD OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF WHICH THEY ARE MEMBERS. UNQUOTE.

I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE SHOULD ANSWER ALONG THESE LINES. HOWEVER JOHN MOORE'S ANSWER WAS PHRASED, THE FACT IS THAT MINISTERS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO ANSWER FOR PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS EVEN IF, AS IN THIS CASE, THEY APPEAR TO HAVE SOUGHT TO DO SO. YOU MAY WISH TO DISCUSS WITH SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG.

SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST
THE PRIME MINISTER WILL RECALL THAT AS PART OF THE REVIEW OF
SOCIAL SECURITY, IT WAS AGREED TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF HELP
WITH MORTGAGE INTEREST PAYMENTS UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT
SCHEME. PROPOSALS TO THIS EFFECT HAVE NOW BEEN WORKED OUT,
WITH THE INTENTION OF SAVINGS OF POUNDS 12 MILLION IN THIS YEAR
AND POUNDS 30 MILLION IN A FULL YEAR. TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR'S
SAVINGS, REGULATIONS WILL NEED TO BE PASSED BY THE RECESS:
THEY WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT THEIR NEXT MEETING ON 7 MAY, WHEN
KNOWLEDGE OF THEM WOULD BECOME PUBLIC. DHSS HAVE SOUGHT VIEWS
ON WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE A DEFERMENT WHICH WOULD COST ABOUT
POUNDS 6 MILLION. BOTH THE LORD PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR
OF THE DUCHY HAVE AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE SUCH A DEFERMENT.
DOES THE PRIME MINISTER AGREE ?

MINISTERIAL VISIT

MR. JOPLING IS PROPOSING TO VISIT GERMANY NEXT WEEK. HE IS
~~PROPOSING~~ TO TAKE WITH HIM HIS POLITICAL ADVISOR. IN VIEW OF

PAST SENSITIVITIES, COULD YOU SEEK THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS.
I SHOULD SAY THAT MAFF HAVE OFFERED NO JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH
A REQUEST: THE VISIT SEEMS TO CONCENTRATE ON VISITS TO TYPICAL
GERMAN FARMS. WE HAVE WARNED MAFF THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS
RELUCTANT TO AUTHORISE FOREIGN VISITS BY POLITICAL ADVISERS
WITHOUT A CLEAR JUSTIFICATION WHETHER OR NOT (AS IN THIS CASE)
THERE IS LITTLE COST TO PUBLIC FUNDS.

HOWE

PM sees no justification

OCMIAN 4437
NNNN

0200^z / 3