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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 May 1983

*Dear John,*

Call on the Prime Minister by Mr Meese: 4 May

We have already sent you briefing for Mr Meese's call on the Prime Minister. HM Ambassador Washington has now recommended (his telno 1171, copy enclosed) that the Prime Minister might also wish to raise the Middle East.

Mr Meese is mainly concerned with US domestic policy and is unlikely to be fully up to date on Mr Shultz's mission. We do not consider that his visit should be the occasion for a major discussion on the Middle East. But he will have been concerned with the President's decision to launch an initiative last September, and generally with the domestic US dimension of Middle Eastern policy. The subject is highly topical. If it comes up the Prime Minister might wish to make the following points:

- (i) it was in our view absolutely right that the President sent Mr Shultz to the Middle East. The withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon has become a critical test of the credibility of the President's policy.
- (ii) we were glad to be able to help over temporary accommodation for US Embassy staff in Beirut following the tragic explosion;
- (iii) we have seen press reports that Mr Shultz will now be putting forward US compromise proposals on the major outstanding issues. We would welcome this, and have already explained to Mr Shultz our belief that the Syrians will need to be brought into the discussions soon.

*Yours ever*

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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FM WASHINGTON 292020Z APR 83  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1171 OF 29 APRIL

MIPT: VISIT OF ED MEESE

1. AS FOR THE RUN UP TO WILLIAMSBURG, THE WHITE HOUSE HAVE TOLD US THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SENT MESSAGES TO KOHL AND MITTERRAND STATING THAT HE IS MORE INTERESTED IN SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS ON THE SECURITY RELATED ASPECTS OF EAST/WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS THAN IN THE PUBLIC PRESENTATION. PROVIDED THERE IS REAL PROGRESS MEANWHILE IN THE STUDIES BEING CONDUCTED IN THE OECD, NATO, COCOM, IEA, IT SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT AT WILLIAMSBURG TO NOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF AN AGREED APPROACH AND THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THESE STUDIES, AND TO ENCOURAGE THEIR CONTINUANCE. IF THIS IS ACHIEVED, THERE SHOULD BE NO NEED FOR THE SUBJECT TO BE DIFFICULT OR CONTENTIOUS AT WILLIAMSBURG. IF HOWEVER THE PROCESS IS NOT ADVANCING, THIS WOULD NEED TO BE DISCUSSED. THIS OF COURSE BEGS THE QUESTION OF WHAT WILL BE CONSIDERED HERE TO CONSTITUTE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS. NO MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT TO US BECAUSE THE AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT, BROADLY, WE SHARE THESE OBJECTIVES.

2. CLEARLY MUCH WILL DEPEND ON HOW THE FRENCH NOW DECIDE TO PAY THIS (PARIS TELEGRAM NO 339 TO YOU). THE PRIME MINISTER MAY THINK IT WORTH IMPRESSING ON MEESE HOWEVER THAT, INDEED, WE SHARE US OBJECTIVES IN THIS AREA AND ARE WORKING IN GOOD FAITH TO CARRY THINGS FORWARD IN THE STUDIES. BUT WE ARE ENGAGED IN A PROCESS OF EDUCATION AND COORDINATION AND MUST NOT EXPECT MIRACLES BY A GIVEN DATE. THE WILLIAMSBURG SUMMIT OFFERS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR STOCKTAKING AND ENSURING THAT THE PROCESS IS CARRIED FORWARD. THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION OF REPEATING THE EXPERIENCE OF VERSAILLES. WILLIAMSBURG HAS THE INGREDIENTS FOR SUCCESS. THE MESSAGE WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE EMERGING FROM THE SUMMIT IS ONE OF A JOINT DETERMINATION TO SUSTAIN NON-INFLATIONARY GROWTH IN THE WORLD ECONOMY AND TO BUILD TOGETHER ON THE RECOVERY IN THE US, IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR GROWTH IN THE BRITISH ECONOMY ETC.

3. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, THE PRIME MINISTER MAY WISH TO TELL MEESE THAT WE THINK IT ABSOLUTELY RIGHT TO HAVE SENT SHULTZ TO THE REGION AND OF OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR HIS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN LEBANON; AND TO MENTION THE HELP WE HAVE GIVEN IN HOUSING THE US EMBASSY IN BEIRUT.

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4. WITH THE ADMINISTRATION SOMEWHAT EMBATTLED ON EL SALVADOR WITH CONGRESS, SOME GENERAL EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR THE BROAD OBJECTIVES OF US POLICY IN CENTRAL AMERICA, AS SET OUT BY THE PRESIDENT IN HIS ADDRESS TO CONGRESS YESTERDAY (MY TELNO 1145) WOULD GO DOWN WELL. INDEED, SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT ON MATTERS OF PIRIPHERAL INTEREST TO US WOULD SUGAR THE PILL OF CRITICISM ON MATTERS OF CENTRAL CONCERN TO US.

WRIGHT

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