PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT FROM AMBASSADOR BREWSTER

E.O. 12065: RDS-4 12/11/99 (BREWSTER, KINGMAN) OR-M

TAGS: PGOV, UK

SUBJECT: (S) MRS. THATCHER’S FORTHCOMING VISIT

1. (S) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. I HAVE TALKED WITH MRS. THATCHER, LORD CARRINGTON AND MICHAEL PALLISER ABOUT THEIR FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON. WHILE EVENTS BETWEEN NOW AND THEN MAY COMPLETELY ALTER THE FOCUS OF DISCUSSION, I THINK THERE ARE SOME ISSUES AND THEMES WHICH ARE PERSISTENT.

3. FIRST, MRS. THATCHER IS MUCH MORE PATIENT, RECEP-TIVE, AND RESPONSIVE THAN SHE USED TO SEEM. THIS DOES NOT MEAN ANY LOSS OF CONVICTION OR OVERLAY OF HYPOCRISY. SHE IS THE SAME SOMEWHAT DOGMATIC OVERSIMPLIFIER SHE ALWAYS WAS. HOWEVER, DESPITE HER DUBLIN EC TACTIC, SHE IS MORE SENSITIVE TO OTHER PEOPLE’S PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

4. SHE IS GENUINELY AND PERCEPTIVELY AWARE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PRESSURE YOU HAVE BEEN UNDER EVER SINCE

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THE TEHRAN EMBASSY WAS INVADED AND ITS PERSONNEL CAPTURED. SHE KNOWS THIS IS THE COMPOUND PRESSURE OF HUMAN CONCERN, CONCERN FOR NATIONAL SELF-RESPECT, AND CONCERN FOR LEADING A VOLATILE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO BE
UNITED IN BOTH RESOLUTION AND RESTRAINT. SHE IS NO DEN- 
MOTHER AND TEARS ON HER SHOULDERS WOULD TURN TO ICE; 
BUT SHE DOES WANT TO BE PERSONALLY AS WELL AS PUBLICLY 
HELPFUL AND SUPPORTIVE. AT THE SAME TIME SHE IS FULLY 
AWARE OF THE INHIBITIONS ON THE SHARING OF CONTINGENCY 
PLANNING, LEST LEAKAGE SHOULD FOSTER EITHER FALSE HOPES 
OR FALSE FEARS. SHE CAN BE COUNTED ON TO KEEP IN 
STRICT PERSONAL CONFIDENCE ANYTHING SHE IS ASKED SO 
TO DO.

5. ON HER WILLINGNESS TO LEAD HER CABINET TO DIRECT 
THE TREASURY AND THE BANK OF ENGLAND TO SUPPORT MORE 
FULLY OUR FREEZE ON IRANIAN ASSETS, I WILL LEAVE THAT 
JUDGMENT TO SECRETARY VANCE'S IMPRESSIONS FROM HIS VISIT. 
ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT TALKED WITH HER ABOUT THIS MATTER 
EXPLICITLY, HER INTUITIVE STYLE WOULD BE TO TAKE THE 
ACTION FRONTALY AND PUBLICLY FOR THE EXPLICIT PURPOSE 
OF COUNTERING THE OUTRAGE TO INTERNATIONAL MORALITY 
AND LAW, RATHER THAN DOING IT IN THE GUISE OF PROTEC- 
TION OF OTHER DEPOSITORS OR CALLING DEFAULTS ON A 
TECHNICAL BASIS. ALSO TYING ANY DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL 
BANKING PRACTICE TO THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL OUTRAGE 
GIVES IT A PROSPECT OF TERMINATION AND WOULD NOT GIVE 
THE BANKING COMMUNITY SUCH JITTERS ABOUT THE HOSPITALITY 
AND RELIABILITY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND AND THE BRITISH 
BANKS GENERALLY IN THE EYES OF THEIR INTERNATIONAL LAW-
ABIDING BORROWERS WHO MAY BE IN TECHNICAL DEFAULT FROM 
tIME TO TIME.

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6. OBVIOUSLY THE STATE OF PLAY MAY HAVE CHANGED BY 
THE TIME OF HER VISIT, BUT IF THE ISSUE IS STILL ON 
THE TABLE I RECOMMEND IT BE DEALT WITH AS A REQUEST 
FOR BOLD, FORTHRIGHT SUPPORT AND PARALLEL ACTION, EVEN 
IF IT REQUIRES EXTRAORDINARY ACTION.

7. ON EAST/WEST AND SECURITY ISSUES THERE IS NO MIS-
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US APART FROM SOME ASPECTS OF 
CTB. SHE FULLY APPRECIATES THE REASON WHY WE WISH 
TO DEFER THE FORMAL POLARIS FOLLOW-ON REQUEST UNTIL 
THE THEATRE NUCLEAR MODERNIZATION ISSUE HAS RUN ITS 
 COURSE THROUGH THE NATO PROCESS. ON THE LATTER SHE IS 
OPTIMISTIC AND HAS CONTINUED TO PRESS BOTH THE DUTCH 
AND THE DANES.
8. She was terribly worried that we might not support the resumption of British rule to preside over Zimbabwe elections by a prompt lifting of sanctions, especially if the Patriotic Front were not on board. She might have found it very awkward to be visiting a head of a state which was operating sanctions against one of her territories. She saw this as an inevitable point of friction which was bound to surface in her press and television interviews in the States. Happily, since I talked with her, the last major hurdle has been leapt. However, it is important to be forthcoming in our total support so that the momentum may carry them over the remaining bumps in the road. If there were to be any delay in lifting of US sanctions when a British governor is installed, it would put a real secret

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NODIS CHEROKEE

Spanner into the gears of our relations generally.

9. Northern Ireland is her next preoccupation. She does not understand how an ally which purports to have a very high stake in the suppression of terrorism can fail to supply equipment to an ally's police force for the purpose of combating terrorism. She would have thought that the Mountbatten tragedy, the Pope's unequivocal denunciation of terrorism in Ireland; the new levels of cooperation between the Garda and the R.U.C.; Prime Minister Lynch's unqualified criticism

UNCLASSIFIED
OF THE IRA AND THOSE IRISH-AMERICANS WHO SUPPORT IT;
AND HER OWN RENEWAL OF A POSITIVE INITIATIVE FOR A
DEGREE OF DEVOLUTION TO NORTHERN IRISH HOME RULE ALL
WOULD HAVE CAUSED THE UNITED STATES TO LIFT THE SUSPEN-
SION ON LICENSES FOR ARMS, AMMUNITION AND SPARE PARTS
TO THE POLICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

10. TO THE EXTENT THAT HER EMBASSY TELLS HER THAT THE
ARMS EMBARGO IS A PRODUCT OF AMERICAN POLITICS SHE
LOSES RESPECT FOR THE AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESS; THE
MORE SO BECAUSE SHE IS ALSO TOLD THAT THE IRISH
QUESTION IS NOT A NATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUE BUT ONLY
A LOCAL ONE IN CENTERS OF IRISH-AMERICAN POPULATION.
WHILE SHE DOES NOT THREATEN NONCOOPERATION ON OTHER
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MATTERS BECAUSE OF THIS ISSUE, IT IS BOUND TO MAKE HER
AND HER COLLEAGUES LESS ENTHUSIASTIC IN THEIR RESPONSE
TO ANY REQUEST FOR HELP AND SOLIDARITY ON IRAN AND
OTHER FAR-FLUNG ISSUES. IF THE EMBARGO IS STILL IN
FORCE, SHE IS BOUND TO BRING IT UP IN CONVERSATION
WITH YOU. SHE PROBABLY COULD NOT AVOID THE ISSUE IF
ASKED ON TELEVISION OR IN PRESS INTERVIEWS. IF WE
COULD RESUME LICENSING OF ARMS SALES TO THE POLICE IN
NORTHERN IRELAND BEFORE HER VISIT IT WOULD ADD ENOR-
MOUSLY TO MUTUAL GOOD WILL AND PERHAPS MAKE A
SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE TO HER RESPONSIVENESS TO OUR
REQUESTS ON OTHER MATTERS. IN ANY EVENT, SHE WILL BRING
IT UP IF IT IS STILL UNRESOLVED.

11. ON ENERGY SHE SHARES OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE ADEQUACY
OF TOKYO TARGETS AND THE FAILURE OF SOME TO LIVE UP
TO THEM. IN VIEW OF THE IRANIAN FRAGILITY AS A SUPPLIER
SHE SEES NEED FOR MORE COOPERATION.

12. SHE IS AWARE THAT THE BRITISH NATIONAL OIL COMPANY’S
ADVANCE CHARGING AMOUNTS TO A COVERT PRICE BOOST. SHE
IS ALSO AWARE THAT THE ENORMOUS PRICE ADVANTAGE OF THE
ARAMCO OFFTAKERS HAS BEEN SORELY ENVIED BY THE BRITISH
MAJOR OIL COMPANIES AND RESENTED BY THE SAUDIS BECAUSE
THE BENEFITS OF THIS PRICE RESTRAINT NEVER REACH THE
CONSUMING ECONOMIES.

13. WHILE CURRENT STALEMATE IN HER BUDGETARY BATTLE
WITH SCHMIDT AND GISCARD IS NOT OUR DIRECT AFFAIR, I
DO THINK IT WOULD BE VALUABLE TO SHOW OUR CONCERN FOR
BRITISH FULL PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, FOR POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC AS WELL AS ECONOMIC REASONS. ALSO IT WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE TO SHOW AN INTEREST IN HOW THESE PROSPECTS LOOK TO HER.

14. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, OTHER BILATERAL MATTERS IN CIVIL AVIATION, US EXTRATERRITORIAL ANTITRUST EFFORTS AND BRITAIN’S LEGISLATIVE RESPONSE, THEIR FAILURE TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON ILICIT PAYMENTS, ET CETERA. HOWEVER, I WOULD NATURALLY URGE THAT YOU MAKE THE MOST OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE AND PUBLICLY DEMONSTRATE GENUINE SOLIDARITY ON THE RESPONSE TO IMMORALITY AND ILLEGALITY IN TEHRAN AND THE EFFORT TO ACHIEVE AND RESTORE PEACE AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. AND BEHIND IT ALL, OF COURSE, CONTINUED MUTUAL RESOLVE TO BOLSTER THE CAPACITY OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIES TO DEFEND WESTERN CIVILIZATION.

BREWSTER