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PRIME MINISTER

REAGAN AND BRITISH MEDIA

This note reminds you of our discussion early today on the British media's treatment of the US veto in the UN and the consequent action you and the Foreign Secretary are to take.

The British media reflects two conclusions:

- betrayal by the US for disclosing it would not have vetoed, but abstained, had it had a second chance; and
- its incompetence in conducting its affairs in this way (and without consulting the President).

This is a poor background for President Reagan's visit to London, starting Monday. It was therefore agreed you and the Foreign Secretary should privately try to help Reagan and Haig to rescue themselves in the eyes of the public.

You agreed to approach Reagan and Haig in the margins of the Summit this morning to discuss how this might be done.

In particular, you propose to suggest to Reagan and Haig that during the Summit and national press conferences they should say as many things as possible supportive of Britain's position; and to make as many points in common with the British as possible.

An aide memoire is attached.

Two other points:

- you are anxious to have a sight of President Reagan's Royal Gallery speech in advance; you may wish to raise this; and

/it is highly

- it is highly desirable, to say the least, that President Mitterrand, acting for the Summit as a whole, should speak supportively at the Summit press conference; you may care to consider an approach to him also.

Bernard Ingham

6 June 1982