

Centre for Policy Studies

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Prime Minister -

I had a conversation yesterday with Dr. Edward Luttwak a member of the US foreign affairs transition team, a fellow of Georgetown University and apparently continuing as a defence consultant to the new administration in Washington. He seems to know Mr. Reagan well.

His remarks about Mr. Reagan were:

1. He knows much less than he seems to;
2. He is personally and socially secure;
3. He sometimes puts forward eccentric ideas, partly to see the other person's reaction and does not at all mind if they are attacked;
4. He is genuinely morally brave;
5. I gained the impression that you could help him a lot by giving him your views of the leaders in e.g. Holland, France, Spain;
6. Dr. Luttwak said that Chancellor Schmidt had made a very bad impression by insisting on being received when Mr. Reagan still thought himself a private citizen (!), in being photographed ^{with him} and in adopting a highly unctuous manner which startlingly contrasted with his barely disguised contempt for President Carter;
7. He thought the US and Britain could be heading for a period of very close friendship if this opportunity were to be seized properly;
8. The administration's attitude to the Soviet Union, said Dr. Luttwak would be, "serious but reserved";
9. I had a separate conversation with Dr. Luttwak about Cuba (in which Mr. Reagan is allegedly 'very interested'), the details of which I shall note separately.

Hugh Thomas

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