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FM HOLY SEE

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 064

OF 111545Z NOVEMBER 88

YOUR TELEGRAM NO 26 : PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO THE POPE

1. I GAVE THE TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO ARCHBISHOP CASSIDY THIS MORNING. ARCHBISHOP COLASUONNO WAS ALSO PRESENT. I ALSO BRIEFED THEM ON THE BASIS OF WARSAW TELEGRAMS NOS 671 AND 672. I HAD NOT RECEIVED WARSAW TELEGRAM NO 680 IN TIME.

2. CASSIDY UNDERTOOK TO PASS THE LETTER ON TO THE POPE TODAY. HE EXPECTED THAT THERE WOULD BE A WRITTEN REPLY FROM THE POPE WHEN THE SIGNED ORIGINAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER HAD BEEN RECEIVED.

3. CASSIDY AND COLASUONNO THOUGHT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT HAD BEEN A CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. THEY PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED THE PRIME MINISTER'S INSISTENCE, IN HER CONVERSATION WITH RAKOWSKI ON THE NEED TO BE CLEAR AS TO PRECISELY HOW HIS ECONOMIC REFORMS WERE TO BE INTRODUCED. THEY DOUBTED WHETHER EITHER GOVERNMENT OR OPPOSITION WERE YET READY FOR A ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION.

4. I ASKED IF THEY THOUGHT THE POLISH GOVERNMENT WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE SOVIET UNION OR OTHER EAST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. COLASUONNO'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT, SO LONG AS JARUZELSKI MAINTAINED HIS PRESENT POLICIES, THE SOVIET UNION WOULD NOT (NOT) TRY TO INTERFERE. HE NOTED HOWEVER THAT THE HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES HAD JUST ANNOUNCED PLANS TO AUTHORIZE OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS IN ADDITION TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY, THIS COULD HAVE PROFOUND EFFECTS IN POLAND.

5. COLASUONNO WILL BE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA NEXT WEEK. I WILL THEREFORE BRIEF TAURAN, THE UNDER SECRETARY IN THE COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH, ON THE BASIS OF WARSAW TELNO 680 NOW RECEIVED.

6. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE VATICAN IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONSULTATION WITH THE POPE BEFORE AND AFTER HER VISIT. I HOPE THAT THIS WILL LEAD TO AN EVEN GREATER WILLINGNESS TO KEEP US INFORMED OF ALL MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST.

BROADLEY

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ADVANCE 3

HD/WED 1

HD/PROTOCOL 1

HD/INFO 1

MAIN 51

LIMITED 6

WED 9

EED 6

PROTOCOL DEPT 7

INFO DEPT 11

RESEARCH DEPT 1

PS 7