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TELEGRAM NUMBER 2335 OF 16 AUGUST

INFO UKMIS NEW YORK

INFO SAVING ALL CONSULS GENERAL IN THE USA

Prime Minister

BW
17/8

MY TELNO 2327: PRESIDENT CARTER AND ANDREW YOUNG'S RESIGNATION.

1. THE CLOSE PERSONAL AND POLITICAL BOND BETWEEN YOUNG, CARTER AND HIS GEORGIA INNER CIRCLE HAD PROTECTED YOUNG ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS WHEN HE HAD MADE ILL-CONSIDERED REMARKS AND HAD INTENSELY IRRITATED AND EMBARRASSED VANCE. SO THE WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN HAD TEARS IN HIS EYES WHEN HE ANNOUNCED YOUNG'S RESIGNATION YESTERDAY.

2. YOUNG CLAIMED AFTERWARDS THAT HE COULD HAVE STAYED ON HAD HE UNDERTAKEN NOT TO DO IT AGAIN. BUT THE PRESSURE BUILDING UP FOR HIS DISMISSAL THIS WEEK CLEARLY PROVED IRRESISTIBLE. IN ADDITION TO STRAUSS, SENATE MAJORITY LEADER ROBERT BYRD PUBLICLY DEMANDED HIS REMOVAL TO A LESS SENSITIVE JOB. HIS PROMPT RESIGNATION WAS THE SOLUTION CALCULATED TO DO LEAST DAMAGE TO CARTER PERSONALLY: IT LIMITS THE SCOPE FOR JEWISH CRITICISM (AS COMPARED WITH MAINTAINING HIM IN THE UN JOB) AND REDUCES THE DAMAGE TO CARTER AMONG BLACK VOTERS (AS COMPARED WITH DISMISSING YOUNG).

3. BUT IT IS A FURTHER POLITICAL KNOCK FOR CARTER AT LEAST IN THE SHORTER TERM. BLACK LEADERS HAVE COMPLAINED BITTERLY ABOUT YOUNG'S DEPARTURE AND SAY IT HAS EXACERBATED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BLACK AND JEWISH COMMUNITIES. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS YET TO RECOVER FROM THE UPHEAVALS OF JULY (MY TELNO 2192). EARLIER THIS WEEK GRIFFIN BELL'S PARTING CRITICISMS OF CARTER'S PERFORMANCE (COUPLED WITH THE REMARK THAT HE WAS NOW SET ON THE RIGHT ROAD) WERE A FURTHER REMINDER OF THE RECENT POLITICAL DAMAGE THE ADMINISTRATION SUFFERED. THE LATEST OPINION POLLS RECORD THAT THE PRESIDENT (WHO LEAVES ON HOLIDAY TOMORROW) HAS STILL MADE NO DETECTABLE RECOVERY DESPITE HIS CAMPAIGNING IN KENTUCKY AND BALTIMORE. IN THE LONGER TERM IT COULD PROVE A SOURCE OF WEAKNESS TO CARTER IN THE PRIMARIES, THROUGH BLACK VOTERS STAYING AT HOME, OR ADDING TO THE MOVEMENT FOR A KENNEDY CANDIDACY. YOUNG HAS HOWEVER SAID HE WILL CAMPAIGN FOR CARTER.

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4. YOUNG'S OWN POLITICAL POSITION, HOWEVER, HAS PROBABLY BEEN ENHANCED. HE IS UNREPENTENT AND SAYS WHAT HE DID WAS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. HE MAY WELL HAVE CONSOLIDATED HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY, WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY EQUIVOCAL ABOUT HIM. SHOULD YOUNG CHOOSE TO RUN FOR OFFICE (E.G. AS SENATOR FROM GEORGIA OR MAYOR OF ATLANTA) HE WILL BE OFF TO A HEAD START.

ROBINSON

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