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GRS 160  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FM WASHINGTON 211640Z FEB 85  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 606 OF 21 FEBRUARY  
INFO IMMEDIATE WELLINGTON CANBERRA MODUK (FOR SECRETARY (O) (C)  
AND SECRETARY (NS)), UKDEL NATO

PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON 21 FEBRUARY:  
NEW ZEALAND

1. REPLYING TO A QUESTION ABOUT NON-FULFILLMENT BY CERTAIN ALLIES OF THEIR MILITARY COMMITMENTS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SHE WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED BY THE APPROACH TAKEN BY THE NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER WITH REGARD TO SHIP VISITS. HIS GOVERNMENT WERE WELL AWARE OF THE BRITISH POSITION WHICH WAS THAT ALL BRITISH NAVAL VESSELS WERE SECONDED TO NATO AND MIGHT AT ANY MOMENT HAVE TO ASSUME NATO POSITIONS. THEY MUST THEREFORE CARRY WHATEVER ARMAMENTS WERE APPROPRIATE TO THEIR NATO TASKS. SHE HAD NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER OF REVEALING WHETHER PARTICULAR WEAPONS WERE ON A PARTICULAR VESSEL AT ANY GIVEN TIME. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SHE WOULD BE VERY DISAPPOINTED IF ROYAL NAVAL SHIPS COULD NOT VISIT NEW ZEALAND. THE NEW ZEALAND PEOPLE WERE VERY CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN, AND SHE THOUGHT THAT THEY WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED TOO. SHE WAS VERY WORRIED ABOUT THIS PROBLEM.

2. VERBATIM TEXT TO FOLLOW BY COM

WRIGHT

US DEFENCE RELATIONS WITH NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

LIMITED

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DEFENCE D  
SPD  
NAD  
NEWS D  
PLANNING STAFF  
ECD(E)  
TRED

PS  
PS/LADY YOUNG  
PS/MR LUCE  
PS/PUS  
MR GOODALL  
MR WESTON  
SIR W HARDING  
MR WILSON  
MR DEREK THOMAS  
MR DAVID THOMAS  
MR BRAITHWAITE  
MR MAUD