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Foreign Policy: PM's visit to Far East - Policy
August 1984

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T150/84

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TO FLASH SINGAPORE

TELEGRAM NUMBER 213 OF 29 AUGUST

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF
SINGAPORE

BEGINS.

1. I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD KEENLY TO MY VISIT TO SINGAPORE NEXT MONTH, MY FIRST AS PRIME MINISTER. AS YOU KNOW I FIND OUR DISCUSSIONS ENORMOUSLY STIMULATING AND USEFUL. IT IS THEREFORE WITH VERY GREAT REGRET THAT I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT, AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INDUSTRIAL SITUATION HERE, OF WHICH YOU WILL DOUBTLESS BE AWARE, IT WOULD NOT BE RIGHT FOR ME TO BE ABSENT FOR A PROLONGED PERIOD FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM. I AM OBLIGED, THEREFORE, WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE TO POSTPONE MY VISIT TO SINGAPORE, AS TO THE OTHER COUNTRIES ON MY ITINERARY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT, AS A PRIME MINISTER YOURSELF, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT SITUATIONS OF THIS SORT CAN SOMETIMES ARISE.

2. THIS IS A DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT TO ME PERSONALLY AS I HAD BEEN QUITE PARTICULARLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU. I ALSO VERY MUCH REGRET THE INCONVENIENCE TO YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES FROM THIS CHANGE OF PLAN AFTER ALL THE WORK WHICH HAS BEEN DONE ON THE PROGRAMME. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO REINSTATE MY VISIT AS SOON AS THE SITUATION PERMITS. OUR HIGH COMMISSIONER WILL BE APPROACHING YOU TO SEE WHAT ALTERNATIVE DATES MIGHT BE CONVENIENT.

3. MEANWHILE MAY I SEND YOU MY WARMEST PERSONAL GOOD WISHES.
ENDS.

RIFKIND

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