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WS 1042

3/0 EXEMPT T1088-63
IS 27 Nov 1629Z P
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ST 300

NOTE OF CONDOLENCE ON DEATH OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

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CONVERSATION BETWEEN:]

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In the first place, I would like to receive the instruction requested in EXEMPT of 1500 hours. Then, according to what you say, permit me to make some suggestions regarding the statement which the EXEMPT will surely make.

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First, let me say that as soon as we learned the tragic news the EXEMPT (visited the EXEMPT to express the grief and sorrow of the government and people of EXEMPT has sent a cablegram to Mrs. KENNEDY and to the new President of the United States, expressing his condolences. Also, EXEMPT has sent a similar cablegram to the Secretary of State. National mourning has been decreed for three days. The President has already made a statement which in a few moments will be given to the press and which I shall send to you. Likewise, EXEMPT will make a statement. As far as instructions, while they are being prepared, it seems necessary and indispensable that you proceed to express to the United States Government the condolences of our government and our people, in the following manner: Real consternation reigns here, because President KENNEDY was loved and admired by the people of Chile; who knew that he always understood our problems.

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The text of the President's statement reads as follows:

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Please make the suggestions you feel advisable as you announced above.

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Because of the present situation in Washington and the prevalent atmosphere in Congress in respect to the foreign aid program, particularly in respect to the Alliance for Progress, to which I have referred at length in previous cablegrams and notes, I think that the tragic death of President KENNEDY should not pass without very explicit reference to said program, of which he was the creator and the most ardent defender, even to the point that there were times when the maintenance of the Alliance in American circles was entrusted almost exclusively to the personal battle that he maintained on all opposing fronts. For this reason, I am suggesting, knowing that it would be very well received in circles of the Administration of the United States, that in President [EXEMPT] statement a very special reference be made to the President [EXEMPT] of the Alliance, pointing out the urgent necessity for the United States and all the Latin American

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peoples to make of the Alliance, that is of its realities, a [EXEMPT] to the life and concepts of this great man. This is my suggestion.

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At this moment, we are seeing whether or not the President's statement has already been released to the press, in order to be able to make an addition.

The statement has already been released to the press as we have transcribed it to you. However, we will make use of any further declaration to take your suggestion into account.

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The declaration that will be reproduced by all the newspapers of the ([XG]) since probably later declarations will be confused under the deluge of important reactions from many sources. I ask, finally, if it would still not be possible to send the newspapers an additional paragraph to the statement already sent, having in mind that if the President's statement has just been sent, it could not be actually published yet but would be in the morning newspapers tomorrow. The same step should be taken in reference to the texts sent to the wire services.

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Unfortunately, the statement previously mentioned has already been transmitted by radio; therefore, it is impossible to make any changes.

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