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CONFIDENTIAL
FM CANBERRA 040540Z FEB 81
TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 56 OF 4 FEBRUARY

PERSONAL FOR PRIME MINISTER FROM SIR ANTHONY ROYLE
(COPY TO SECRETARY OF STATE)

1. I DELIVERED YOUR LETTER THIS MORNING TO PRIME MINISTER MALCOLM FRASER. HE CONFIRMED THAT HE IS DELIGHTED TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION AND IS GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR GIVING HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AT THE CONSERVATIVE CONFERENCE IN BLACKPOOL. HE IMPLIED THAT HE WOULD BE GLAD TO INCLUDE AN OFFICIAL VISIT AT THAT TIME. I THINK THAT FRASER MAY WISH TO ANNOUNCE PUBLICLY HIS ACCEPTANCE OF YOUR INVITATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. LOCAL JOURNALISTS ARE SPECULATING ABOUT THE CONTENT OF MY DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM. PLEASE WILL YOU ADVISE ME URGENTLY IF YOU SEE ANY OBJECTION TO AN EARLY PRESS STATEMENT IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITY OF LEAKS IN CANBERRA. I AM ALSO CONSULTING CHARLES JOHNSTON AND PETER THORNEYCROFT.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER RAISED WITH ME A WIDE RANGE OF OTHER SUBJECTS INCLUDING THE BRANDT REPORT, ASEAN, REVIVED 5 POWER ARRANGEMENTS, E.D.U. STOP. ALSO CERTAIN CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS WHICH HE HAS REQUESTED ME TO DISCUSS WITH YOU ON MY RETURN TO LONDON.

NNNN

IMMEDIATE

*cc. @ Mr. Anson (to keep an eye on!)
② Mr. Ryder: to note.
PS / no 10 Downing St.
PS. (sent)*

BF for tel

P.N. has already agreed that Mr Fraser should receive an official invitation. I have asked FCO to reply to this tel, making the point that while we have no objection to an early announcement, its terms must be agreed in the usual way & the text used here & in Canberra simultaneously

Paul - 4/2

[Handwritten marks]

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