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REPORT FROM WASHINGTON IN IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF PRESIDENT'S DEATH



26 Nov 63

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Prince BERNHARD left Washington on Monday evening, since he had to be back in the Netherlands early Tuesday without fail. Before leaving, he was able to see Mrs. KENNEDY; who received all the distinguished guests in the White House after the funeral. The Prince was treated with especial courtesy by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force General LEMAY, who called in person at the Embassy to take him to the airport, where he made a plane available to fly him direct to Zolsterberg.

Princess BEATRIX, after visiting the White House, attended the reception at the State Department, where she spoke at some length with Mrs. JOHNSON, who was seated between the Dutch Princess and Queen FREDERIKA of Greece.

Mr. LUNS left at about 1300 on Tuesday. We had a brief talk with him that morning. He believes that RUSK will now come more to the fore, because of JOHNSON's previous preoccupation with domestic politics. He considers it a favorable omen that the new President recently spent three days in Holland. LUNS assumes that there will be no abrupt change in American policy, but one must be prepared to note nuances. Officially, JOHNSON has always conformed to KENNEDY's policies, but he has always been a few degrees more conservative, and it remains to be seen how much of his earlier outlook will carry over.

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The White House atmosphere will undoubtedly change, for it is hard to believe that personal collaborators of KENNEDY such as BUNDY and SCHLESINGER will be on the JOHNSON team. The influence of ROSTOW, the planning head in the State Department, could decline, as will, of course, that of ROBERT KENNEDY.

At the Monday evening reception in the State Department, JOHNSON had a cordially interested greeting for each guest. He had a two-handed handshake for LUNS, who was accompanied by the Princess and VAN ROIJEN. The former received hearty applause from the crowd when she left the building.

Americans are deeply appreciative of DE GAULLE's coming to Washington, but LUNS has not got the impression that there will be a change in the American attitude toward France.

At the reception, LUNS had rather long conversations with ERHARD and Indonesian Defense Minister NASUTION, with which he was very satisfied. ERHARD had just visited Paris, and it can easily be guessed what he and LUNS talked about.

LUNS will remain Wednesday in New York. He will arrive in Amsterdam on Thursday morning and go direct to Strassburg, where the European Parliament seems quite anxious that he speak as soon as possible.

On Tuesday, RUSK had talks with several important visitors, including MIKOYAN, ERHARD, and HOME. He also received a group of Latin American representatives. In all these talks the President((B)) assured his guests that American policy toward their countries would not change.

On the same day, many people visited President KENNEDY's grave across the river. Queen FREDERIKA laid an olive wreath as a symbol of peace.

On Wednesday, President JOHNSON will deliver to the Congress a speech which is awaited with interest. However, it

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does not seem likely that he will hold a press conference this week, since Thursday is Thanksgiving Day. This was originally a festival of thanks for the harvest, and later became a day of general thanksgiving. This year it will be an unprecedentedly somber day for America. What one can be thankful for at this moment is that political institutions provide for a quick and peaceful take-over in the event of the sudden death of the President.

- ((A)) Cable address of newspaper Grote Provinciële Dagblad.
- ((B)) As in text.

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