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DE GAULLE AND ERHARD THE TWO MOST PROMINENT MOURNERS

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27 Nov 63
Priority

After 23 hours of flying, I arrived in Washington Saturday at about 0200 hours in the night. The welcoming formalities were carried out by RUSK and the top officials of the State Department.

Mr. RUSK was assigned to meet all foreign representatives, even the heads of state.

Two kings and the Queen of Greece, eight presidents, three crown princes, and four members of royal families, thirty prime ministers and foreign ministers attended these ceremonies; but without any doubt at all the outstanding personality at this gathering was General DE GAULLE, and the next most outstanding was ERHARD, despite the fact that the German President was present too.

The funeral ceremonies were splendid and magnificent, and it is said that Washington has seen nothing like them since the burial of the Unknown Soldier.

After the internment ceremonies, all the representatives went to the White House so that Mrs. KENNEDY might thank them. While talking with EXEMPT, Mrs. KENNEDY said, "I thank the EXEMPT very much for sending EXEMPT to Washington on his behalf to attend my husband's funeral. Moreover she mentioned her pleasant memories of the days when EXEMPT were here."

Then the new president received all the representatives in the White House and thanked them. In this reception Mr. JOHNSON

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3/0 EXEMPT T1776-63

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS 2 PAGE(S)

~~TOP SECRET DINAR~~

1-2-5

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3/0/EXEMPT T1776-63

spoke privately with EXEMPT and me and the EXEMPT
EXEMPT and he described his good memories of the time of his
visit to EXEMPT and most of his talk was about EXEMPT revolu-
tionary reforms, which he lauded and praised; and he expressed
pleasure at the progress and development of these reforms.

In the conversation with the Presidents of France and Germany
and the Crown Princess of the Netherlands all spoke of the pleasant
memories they had of their visits EXEMPT In general the con-
versations gave each one a chance to praise the revolutionary re-
forms of EXEMPT

EXEMPT left today for EXEMPT After staying a couple
of days there he will go to New York, and on Saturday he will leave
from New York. All the representatives left in the course of last
night and today.

Naturally the Secretary of State these past few days has been
busy with work for the new government, and probably it will not be
possible to arrange a meeting with him. However, Mr. EXEMPT is
coming EXEMPT tomorrow for some discussions. For luncheon
also a few top State Department officials have been invited EXEMPT

EXEMPT

I am leaving for New York tomorrow afternoon and on Saturday
am going to Europe with EXEMPT and Monday I shall be in
Belgrade. Details by post.

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MS

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-2-

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