



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Would you like us to try to arrange a meeting with Trudeau? I am not sure that we need try very hard: but perhaps appearances should be preserved.
Dear Michael,

1 May 1981

If Trudeau in charge a series of meetings in Europe - we must be on schedule. mt.

Possible Meeting between the Prime Minister and Mr Trudeau

Mr Michael Kirby, the Canadian Secretary to the Cabinet for Federal-Provincial Relations, and close to Mr Trudeau, called on us yesterday mainly to discuss the Canadian Constitutional issue. He also told us that prior to the Economic Summit in Ottawa on 20/21 July, Mr Trudeau had firm plans to meet all other participants. He had, however, been hesitating about whether to suggest a meeting with Mrs Thatcher as this was liable to be linked with the constitutional question and this linkage could have harmful results. Mr Kirby asked us whether there would be a problem from Mrs Thatcher's point of view if Mr Trudeau saw the other leaders concerned and not her. At the same time, Mr Kirby left us with the impression that, other things being equal, Mr Trudeau would like to discuss Economic Summit issues with Mrs Thatcher, though he would not in any way be offended if she either thought it inappropriate or if a date could not be found which would suit her and Mr Trudeau.

We told Mr Kirby that we would sound you out informally on this question and convey your response, equally informally, to the Canadians. We added that it might anyway be difficult at this short notice to find a date which both leaders could manage.

There is obviously a danger of a meeting between the Prime Minister and Mr Trudeau being linked in a damaging way to the constitutional issue; but this will be minimised if such a meeting were to take place after the Canadian Supreme Court had delivered its opinion. This is expected at the beginning of June. At the other end of the timescale, there would not be much point in a meeting between the two leaders within, say, a fortnight of the Summit itself. This leaves a window between, say, mid-June and the end of the first week in July for a meeting. On balance we favour a meeting at this time. Although the Prime Minister's approach to some of the issues for the Economic Summit may differ from that of Mr Trudeau, there would be some advantage

I should have thought it would be easier before the Supreme Court decision because nothing could do as well as we are waiting.

/in



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in clearing the air in advance - but we recognise that the chances of securing a mutually convenient date are probably slight.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Wright in the Cabinet Office.

Yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

Michael Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

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OO OTTAWA
GRS 301
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FROM FCO 061600Z MAY 1981
TO IMMEDIATE OTTAWA
TELEGRAM NUMBER 133 OF 6 MAY.
INFO IMMEDIATE OSLO.
FROM NAD

fg - Smith

POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR TRUDEAU
1. ROME TELEGRAM NUMBER 154 OF 5 MAY QUOTED MACGUIGAN AS
WONDERING, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION, WHETHER
IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF MR TRUDEAU WERE TO HAVE ANOTHER WORD
WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. LORD CARRINGTON AGREED THIS MIGHT BE
USEFUL. WE HAVE MEANWHILE CONSULTED NUMBER 10 ABOUT A POSSIBLE
MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS IN THE CONTEXT OF PREPARATION
FOR THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT. THIS FOLLOWED INFORMAL INQUIRIES
ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A MEETING INITIATED BY MICHAEL
KIRBY DURING HIS RECENT VISIT HERE.

2. WE ASKED NUMBER 10 WHETHER THE PRIME MINISTER WAS HAPPY
TO SEE MR TRUDEAU DURING HIS VISIT TO EUROPE TO SEE OTHER
LEADERS INVOLVED (WHICH WE NOW KNOW WILL TAKE PLACE IN MAY)
OR WHETHER BECAUSE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION, SHE WOULD
PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL THE SUPREME COURT HAD PRONOUNCED,
IE JUNE/JULY. THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEW IS THAT IF
MR TRUDEAU IS HOLDING A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH THE OTHER
PARTICIPANTS HE WILL PROBABLY WISH ALSO TO HAVE A MEETING WITH
HER. SHE IS ALSO INCLINED TO THINK THAT IT WOULD BE
EASIER IF THE MEETING TOOK PLACE BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT'S
VERDICT.

3. IT IS LIKELY TO BE DIFFICULT TO FIND A DATE WHICH WILL
SUIT BOTH PRIME MINISTERS. I WOULD THEREFORE BE GRATEFUL IF
YOU COULD APPROACH THE CANADIANS SOON AT THE LEVEL YOU JUDGE
APPROPRIATE, EXPLAIN THE BACKGROUND AND ASK THEM TO SUGGEST
DATES (AS MANY AS POSSIBLE PLEASE)

WHICH WOULD FIT IN WITH MR TRUDEAU'S OTHER PLANS. YOU
COULD REFER BOTH TO MR MACGUIGAN'S CONVERSATION WITH THE

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SECRETARY OF STATE AND TO KIRBY'S INFORMAL SOUNDINGS.

4. WE ARE INFORMING THE HIGH COMMISSION HERE BUT LEAVING
SUBSTANTIVE ACTION WITH YOU.

CARRINGTON

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION LIMITED

NAD

CCD

P & CD

PCCU

PARLIAMENTARY UNIT

NEWS D

INFORMATION D

PS ← ERD

PS/IPS

PS/MR RIDLEY

PS/MR BLAKER

PS/MR HURD

PS/PUS

SIR E YOUDE

MR DAY

MR URE

LORD N G LENNOX

CABINET OFFICE ← LORD BRIDLES

MR EVANS

COPIES TO:

SIR I SINCLAIR }
MR FREELAND } LEGAL ADVS.
DR PARRY }

LORD MORAN C/O HDS OF MISSION POD
PS/CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF
LANCASTER

PS/LORD CHANCELLOR

PS/LORD PRESIDENT

MR H STEEL, LAW OFFICERS' DEPT

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