

ROUTINE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 300900Z

FM OTTAWA 292300Z SEPT 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 501 OF 29 SEPTEMBER

INFO ROUTINE TO WASHINGTON (PLEASE PASS TO PM'S PARTY), UKMIS NEW YORK AND UKDEL NATO

SAVING TO OTHER NATO POSTS AND MOSCOW

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO CANADA

1. THE PRIME MINISTER LEFT EDMONTON YESTERDAY FOR WASHINGTON AFTER A TWO AND A HALF DAY VISIT TO CANADA WHICH HAS BEEN AN IMMENSE SUCCESS. HER CONVICTION, ELOQUENCE, MASTERY OF DETAIL, UNFLAGGING ENERGY AND INTEREST IN CANADA HAVE MADE A PROFOUND IMPRESSION HERE ON CANADIANS OF ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS.

2. MRS THATCHER'S SPEECH TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT WAS OF A QUALITY CANADIANS SELDOM HEAR. SHE ROSE MAGNIFICENTLY TO A GREAT OCCASION, AND I AM NOT SURPRISED THAT THE TIMES (UNDERLINED) DESCRIBED IT AS A TRIUMPH AND THE GUARDIAN (UNDERLINED) AS A MAJESTIC PERFORMANCE. HER ECONOMIC SPEECH IN TORONTO WAS EQUALLY WELL RECEIVED. ALMOST MORE IMPRESSIVE STILL WERE THE TWO SPEECHES SHE MADE, AFTER PUNISHING PROGRAMMES STARTING EARLY IN THE MORNING, AT DINNERS IN TORONTO AND EDMONTON - ONE ENTIRELY AND ONE LARGELY WITHOUT A NOTE. HER HOST, MR TRUDEAU, WAS PUT IN THE SHADE. AN ALBERTA PAPER SUMMED IT UP QUOTE THATCHER OUTSHINES TRUDEAU IN DEFENCE OF FREE ENTERPRISE UNQUOTE.

3. THE MAIN THEMES OF MRS THATCHER'S SPEECHES, STRESSED ALSO IN HER NUMEROUS TELEVISION AND PRESS INTERVIEWS WERE, FIRSTLY, THE NEED FOR RESOLUTE WESTERN COLLECTIVE DEFENCE AGAINST THE SOVIET THREAT - FOR STRENGTH AND UNITY IN NATO - AND, SECONDLY, THE VIRTUES OF FREE ENTERPRISE, UNFETTERED BY GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE. THESE THEMES WERE NATURALLY MORE ACCEPTABLE TO CONSERVATIVES AND BUSINESSMEN IN CANADA THAN TO MR TRUDEAU AND HIS COLLEAGUES, THOUGH SOME LEADING LIBERALS HAVE TOLD ME THAT THEY AGREE WITH MRS THATCHER'S LINE ON THE RUSSIANS. (MR TRUDEAU HAS RUN DOWN CANADA'S ARMED FORCES, IS SOFT TOWARDS THE RUSSIANS AND NOT

/HESITANT

DISTRIBUTION  
CHANCERY GENERAL (CHYG)  
PLUS SIR A ACKLAND  
SIR R ARMSTRONG  
MR COLES  
MR INGHAM  
MR BUTLER

ADVANCE COPIES TO  
MR COLES

I.L. 2876/PT

CONFIDENTIAL

HESITANT ABOUT INTERVENTION IN THE ECONOMY).

4. AS I SAID IN MY TELNO 398 OF 1 SEPTEMBER, THE KEY IMPORTANCE OF THE VISIT WAS ITS PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO PERSUADE CANADIANS THAT WE VALUE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM. IN THIS IT SURPASSED EVEN MY EXPECTATIONS THOUGH MR TRUDEAU HIMSELF - WHO IS STILL PRIME MINISTER - MUST HAVE HAD MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT IT. I AM SURE THAT WHAT HE HAD IN MIND WAS PRIMARILY AN UNCONTROVERSIAL THANK YOU TO MRS THATCHER FOR HER HELP ON THE PATRIATION OF THE CONSTITUTION THOUGH HE WAS NOT ABOVE PLANNING TO USE HER TO HIS POLITICAL ADVANTAGE BY INVITING THE LIBERAL FAITHFUL TO MEET HER IN TORONTO AND EDMONTON. HOWEVER IT DID NOT TURN OUT AS HE EXPECTED, FOR THE LIBERALS WERE AS STUNNED AS EVERYONE ELSE BY THE IMPACT OF MRS THATCHER'S PERSONALITY AND HER CONSERVATIVE CREED, EXPRESSED WITH MATCHLESS PANACHE. HAVING SUMMONED FORTH THIS GENIE FROM ITS BOTTLE MR TRUDEAU MUST HAVE WISHED, VAINLY, TO PUT IT BACK AGAIN AND CORK IT UP. NEVERTHELESS, AND DESPITE THEIR DIFFERENCES, MRS THATCHER FIRMLY REJECTED INVITATIONS FROM JOURNALISTS TO CONFIRM HER DISAGREEMENTS WITH MR TRUDEAU, AT WILLIAMSBURG AND ELSEWHERE. THE MOST SHE WOULD SAY WAS A LIGHT REFERENCE, IN EDMONTON, TO THE FACT THAT QUOTE OCCASIONALLY WE DISAGREE, BUT ONLY, PRIME MINISTER, WHEN YOU ARE WRONG UNQUOTE.

5. MRS THATCHER HAD TALKS WITH MR TRUDEAU AND SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES, COVERING THE PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS OF BILATERAL INTEREST, AND SOME MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, THOUGH ONLY RELATIVELY BRIEFLY. MR TRUDEAU SEEMED ANXIOUS TO AVOID EXCHANGING VIEWS IN HIS COLLEAGUES' PRESENCE ON THE WIDER QUESTIONS OF EAST/WEST RELATIONS - FOR EXAMPLE, GORBACHEV'S VISIT HERE - OR ON DEFENCE AND DEFENCE EXPENDITURE. AFTER BRIEF DISCUSSION OF INVESTMENT, THE NEWSPRINT PROBLEM, FISHERIES, BRITISH PENSIONERS, COOPERATION IN DEFENCE RESEARCH, AND THE NEED FOR MORE BILATERAL MEETINGS, MRS THATCHER BROUGHT THE DISCUSSION BACK TO NATO AND THE TWIN TRACK DECISION. MR TRUDEAU, REFERRING TO THE BONN NATO SUMMIT, SUGGESTED PETULANTLY THAT NATO POLITICIANS SHOULD NOT LEAVE EVERYTHING TO THE QUOTE NUCLEAR ACCOUNTANTS UNQUOTE. MRS THATCHER REPLIED FIRMLY THAT, IF THEY DID SO, THE POLITICIANS HAD ONLY THEMSELVES TO BLAME.

6. BESIDES MEETING BRITISH BUSINESSMEN, MRS THATCHER HAD USEFUL MEETINGS WITH SOME LEADING CANADIAN BUSINESSMEN, WHO WERE STRUCK BY HER DETAILED KNOWLEDGE AND SAID SO AFTERWARDS TO THE PRESS. SHE ALSO MET AT MY HOUSE THE NEW LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, MR BRIAN MULRONEY, WHOM I THINK SHE FOUND MODEST AND LIKEABLE, AND IN ONTARIO AND ALBERTA, THE CONSERVATIVE PREMIERS BILL DAVIS AND PETER LOUGHEED, WHO BOTH APPEARED TO GOOD ADVANTAGE. THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE PRESS THAT SHE HAD BEEN STRUCK BY THE QUOTE IMMENSE IMPORTANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO THE LIFE

AND POLICY OF CANADA UNQUOTE. THE FACT THAT SHE TRAVELLED 3,000 MILES TO HAVE DINNER AND BREAKFAST IN WESTERN CANADA WAS ENORMOUSLY APPRECIATED THERE, ESPECIALLY IN ALBERTA, AND THE FACT THAT MR TRUDEAU ALSO TRAVELLED 3,000 MILES TO PREVENT HER BEING ENTERTAINED TO DINNER BY MR LOUGHEED SHOWS HOW SERIOUSLY HE TAKES MRS THATCHER'S POLITICAL IMPACT.

7. THE VISIT WILL GIVE A GREAT BOOST TO BRITISH INTERESTS IN CANADA OF EVERY SORT. IT MAY ALSO HAVE PROFOUND REPERCUSSIONS ON CANADIAN POLITICAL LIFE. IN THIS COUNTRY FEDERAL POLITICIANS, OF BOTH MAIN PARTIES, ARE ESSENTIALLY WATCHERS OF POLLS AND MIDDLE-GROUND COMPROMISERS. THEY HAVE BEEN STARTLED BY THE RESPONSE OF CANADIANS TO A STATESMAN OF A TOTALLY DIFFERENT SORT, SPEAKING UNCOMPROMISINGLY FROM PROFOUND CONVICTION. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT THEY DO. ALREADY MR LOUGHEED HAS COME OFF THE FENCE AND COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF CRUISE MISSILE TESTING IN ALBERTA.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES

MORAN