

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

DESKBY 030900Z OCT 83
 FM OTTAWA 302220Z SEPT 83
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 507 OF 30 SEPTEMBER
 SAVING TO TORONTO AND MONTREAL

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT: FIRA AND ULTRAMAR

MY TELNO 468 AND MY MINUTE OF 15 SEPTEMBER TO MARSHALL, NAD

1. THE PRIME MINISTER MENTIONED THIS WHEN SHE MET MR TRUDEAU AND HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE MORNING OF 26 SEPTEMBER. SUBSEQUENTLY AT LUNCH WITH MR TRUDEAU I DISCUSSED IT WITH THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, JEAN CHRETIEN, AND THE SECRETARY OF THE CABINET, OSBALDESTON, WHO WERE SYMPATHETIC TO ULTRAMAR'S CASE AND ASKED ME TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO PERSIST IN THEIR APPLICATION TO ACQUIRE THE SPUR CHAIN OF GAS STATIONS. I TOLD WOODRUFF OF ULTRAMAR WHAT WE HAD DONE AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH BRITISH BUSINESSMEN IN TORONTO ON 27 SEPTEMBER AND SUGGESTED THAT HE SHOULD GET RICHARDSON, THE HEAD OF FIRA, TO TALK TO OSBALDESTON.
2. I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT ULTRAMAR HAVE NOW BEEN INFORMED BY TELEPHONE THAT THE CABINET HAS ACCEPTED THEIR APPLICATION TO ACQUIRE THE SPUR CHAIN UNCLUDING ULTRAMAR'S ORIGINAL UNDERTAKING TO SELL OFF 50 PER CENT OF THEIR CANADIAN BUSINESS TO CANADIAN INVESTORS WITHIN FIVE YEARS, BUT WITH A PROVISIO ON ACHIEVING AN ACCEPTABLE SALE PRICE.
3. I RECOMMEND THAT LADY YOUNG SHOULD EXPRESS SATISFACTION ABOUT THIS WHEN SHE SEES MR PEPIN IN NEW YORK ON 6 OCTOBER.
4. FCO PLEASE PASS TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET, TO SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG, DTI AND DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

MORAN

LIMITED
 NAD
 TRED
 ERD
 ES+SD
 PS/PUS
 MR GIFFARD
 MR URE
 CABINET OFFICE

COPIES TO:-
 D/ENERGY
 DTA/DTI
 SIR R ARMSTRONG
 CABINET OFFICE

COPIES SENT TO
 No. 10 DOWNING STREET

RESTRICTED