

GRS 520

S E C R E T

SECRET

DESKBY 220900Z

FM OTTAWA 201615Z DEC 80

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 553 OF 20 DECEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE MOD(FOR SECRETARY OF STATE)

1.
Canada

MY TELEGRAM NOS 551 AND 552 (OF DEC 19)
CANADIAN CONSTITUTION.

1. THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS SET DOWN WHILE REFLECTING ON MY LAST CONVERSATION WITH MR PYM MAY BE HELPFUL TO YOU IN CONSIDERING OUR BEST COURSE OF ACTION OVER THE COMING MONTHS.
2. TRUDEAU IS SHOWING A STEELY DETERMINATION TO PRESS ON REGARDLESS OF CONSEQUENCES FOR HMG AND IS EVIDENTLY READY TO EXPLOIT TO HIS ADVANTAGE ANY OBSTRUCTION BY THE UK PARLIAMENT.
3. IF, REPEAT IF, IT IS CLEAR THAT UK PARLIAMENT WILL NOT DO WHAT HE WANTS ANGLO-CANADIAN GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ARE IN FOR A BRUISING WHICH NO ATTEMPTS TO APPEASE HIM BEFOREHAND WILL DIMINISH.
4. ALL IS NOT CLEAR RUNNING ON HIS HOME FRONT. HIS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE INCREASING AND THE PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION THAT HE HAS HIS EYE ON THE WRONG BALL IS LIKELY TO GROW. THE MANITOBA APPEAL COURT MAY GIVE A JUDGEMENT AGAINST HIM IN JANUARY. THE PROVINCIAL PREMIERS, PERHAPS WITH SOME SUPPORT FROM ONTARIO, MAY COME UP WITH A NEW INITIATION OVER PATRIATION AND AN AMENDING FORMULA WHICH WOULD GAIN OBVIOUS PUBLIC SUPPORT AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO CONFUSE IN THE PUBLIC'S MIND THE TWO ISSUES OF PATRIATION AND A BILL OF RIGHTS. THE NDP PARTY ARE BECOMING SO CRITICAL OF TRUDEAU'S ECONOMIC POLICY THAT THEY MAY YET RAT ON HIM ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL FRONT. ON THE OVERSEAS FRONT HIS ENERGY POLICY IS NOT POPULAR WITH THE USA AND EEC; HE IS AT ODDS WITH FRANCE OVER QUEBEC; AT ODDS WITH THE EEC AND USA OVER HIS INWARD INVESTMENT AND FIRA POLICIES, AND HIS IDEAS ON THE NORTH-SOUTH ISSUE MAY NOT COINCIDE WITH OUR, FRANCE'S, GERMANY'S OR THE USA'S. HIS RELATIONS WITH MR REAGAN MAY NOT BE EASY.
5. WE SHOULD NOT LET MENTION BY TRUDEAU OF ISSUES SUCH AS THE RETENTION OF THE MONARCHY, UDI AND THE NEXT COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS' CONFERENCE DISTRACT US FROM A COLD EXAMINATION OF OUR AND HIS INTERESTS. ACTION AGAINST UK INVESTMENTS IN CANADA WOULD HAVE A DEPLORABLE EFFECT ON OTHER FOREIGN INVESTORS, PARTICULARLY AMERICAN. THE CANADIANS ARE INCREASING THEIR STAKE IN THE NORTH SEA, AND WE BUY MUCH MORE FROM THEM THAN THEY FROM US. WE HAVE AN ESSENTIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THE JULY SUMMIT.

S E C R E T

/ 6. IF WE

S E C R E T

6. IF WE ANTICIPATE A BATTLE, WE SHOULD PREPARE THE GROUND BEFOREHAND AND HOPE BY OUR STEELINESS OF PURPOSE AT BEST TO DETER TRUDEAU (WHICH MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE) AND AT LEAST TO DIMINISH HIS CHANCES OF PROFITING BY IT.

7. THIS SUGGESTS THAT IT WILL BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO PREVARICATE WHILE THE ISSUE IS SUB JUDICE AND TO GIVE HIS OPPOSITION WHAT GRIST WE CAN WITHOUT LAYING OURSELVES OBVIOUSLY OPEN TO THE CHARGE OF INTERFERENCE IN CANADIAN AFFAIRS; AND THAT WE SHOULD MAKE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR TO THE CANADIANS (WITHOUT ANY INDICATION THAT THERE IS ANY CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE) THAT WE HAVE INTERESTS ON OTHER FRONTS THAT WE ARE GOING TO START PUSHING, EG OVER ENERGY, FIRA, CANADIANISATION AND NORTH SOUTH DIALOGUE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE USA AND OUR EEC PARTNERS. WE SHOULD ALSO DO ALL WE CAN THROUGH PQ'S PUBLICITY, SPEECHES ETC WHICH CAN BE PICKED UP IN CANADA TO UNDERLINE THAT WE ARE NOT COLONIALIST AND THAT PARLIAMENTARY WORRIES IN THE UK ARE ABOUT TRUDEAU'S ATTEMPTS TO FORCE US TO BE SO BY IMPOSING ON CANADA WHAT CANADIANS DO NOT WANT TO DO FOR THEMSELVES: AND BY CHANGING A CONSTITUTION UNDER WHICH THE CANDIAN CONFEDERATION HAS PROSPERED FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY.

FORD

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

LIMITED

NAD
CCD
PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR RIDLEY
PS/PUS
SIR A ACLAND
MR HARDING

- 2 -

S E C R E T