

CE PC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 March 1984

John Thurman, PM's International Commitments
 (London Economic Summit: Meeting with Mr Trudeau)

You may have already seen Ottawa telegram 185 of 23 March (copy enclosed) reporting an approach to the High Commissioner at official level about a possible bilateral meeting between the Prime Minister and Mr Trudeau at the time of the London Economic Summit.

In your letter of 24 January to Peter Ricketts, you noted, in connection with a possible meeting with Mr Trudeau, that we might have to be rather sparing in arrangements for bilaterals during the Summit. While there will clearly be considerable demands on the Prime Minister at that time, the Foreign Secretary hopes that it may be possible to find an opportunity for a meeting with Mr Trudeau. You will recall that he was an attentive host during the Prime Minister's visit to Canada last September. The Summit will be his last major international engagement before the Liberal Party chooses a successor in mid-June. The Prime Minister has already invited President Reagan to talks and dinner on 5 June and Mr Nakasone to talks and lunch on 11 June. Mr Trudeau is the only other Summit participant whom the Prime Minister does not see frequently at the European Council or on other occasions. The Canadians might find it invidious if Mr Trudeau was not offered the possibility of separate talks with the Prime Minister at some point, before or during the Summit. Although I do not think they could object if the invitation did not extend to a meal, that additional gesture would obviously be much appreciated.

The Canadian Department of External Affairs have suggested that lunchtime on Sunday 3 June might suit Mr Trudeau's travel plans but they think he could fall in with any alternative which the Prime Minister might wish to suggest (bearing in mind that he apparently plans to be in France by 4 June in time for the D-Day ceremonies on 6 June).

/I am

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I am copying this letter to Richard Hatfield in
the Cabinet Office.

You are
Richard Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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DESKBY 260900Z
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TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 185 OF 23 MARCH 84
INFO PRIORITY TO PARIS

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LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT

SUMMARY

1. DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DEA) HAVE ENQUIRED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING A BILATERAL BETWEEN MR TRUDEAU AND THE PRIME MINISTER DURING THE RUN-UP TO THE SUMMIT.

DETAIL

2. GHERSON, AUS EQUIVALENT IN THE DEA, SPOKE TO ME THIS AFTERNOON. HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED SUMMIT HOSTS OFTEN MADE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE SEPARATE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THEIR VISITORS. WHILE EMPHASISING THAT THIS WAS A VERY TENTATIVE ENQUIRY, AT OFFICIAL LEVEL, HE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE DEA WERE CONFIDENT THAT MR TRUDEAU WOULD GREATLY WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH MRS THATCHER.

3. GHERSON BELIEVED THAT TRUDEAU WOULD NEED TO BE IN FRANCE ON MONDAY 4 JUNE IN PREPARATION FOR THE START OF THE D-DAY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES. OFFICIALS' CURRENT THINKING WAS THAT HE MIGHT ARRIVE IN PARIS EARLIER, TO SPEND THE NIGHT OF SUNDAY 3 JUNE THERE. IF THERE WERE ANY CHANCE OF HIS BEING ABLE TO SEE MRS THATCHER FOR, FOR EXAMPLE LUNCH ON THAT DAY, OFFICIALS THOUGHT HE WOULD BE GLAD TO TRAVEL TO PARIS BY WAY OF LONDON.

4. I UNDERTOOK TO PASS ON THIS SUGGESTION. I WARNED HIM THAT MRS THATCHER'S DIARY HAD BEEN FILLING UP FAST, EVEN WITHOUT THE ADDED PRESSURE ON IT THAT HAS FLOWED FROM THE EC BUDGETARY PROBLEM.

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COMMENT

5. GIVEN MRS THATCHER'S VISIT HERE LAST SEPTEMBER AS MR TRUDEAU'S GUEST AND MR TRUDEAU'S IMMINENT RETIREMENT, I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT WE CAN RESPOND POSITIVELY. IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO ACCEPT THEIR SUGGESTION, THAT WOULD BE IDEAL. IF NOT, I HOPE THAT MRS THATCHER MIGHT BE ABLE TO OFFER SOME ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITY FOR A BILATERAL, AND, IF POSSIBLE, A MEAL.

MORAN

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ERD

NAD

PROTOCOL D

PS

PS/MR RIFKIND

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR WHITNEY

PS/PUS

SIR W HARDING

SIR C TICKELL

MR J THOMAS

MR D THOMAS

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29 MAR 1984

