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OO OTTAWA

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DESKBY 091400Z

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IMMEDIATE OTTAWA

TEL NO 45 OF 8 FEBRUARY 1981

PERSONAL FOR HIGH COMMISSIONER FROM YOUDE

YOUR TEL NO 67 : CANADIAN CONSTITUTION.

1. AFTER CONSULTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE I SPOKE TO THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER YESTERDAY, REFERRING TO THE EXCHANGES IN THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT ON FRIDAY AND YOUR FORTHCOMING TALK WITH GOTTLIEB. I SAID THAT YOU HAD BEEN ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENERAL REMIT OF ALL AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS TO EXPLAIN THE VIEW OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND THE SITUATION IN THEIR CAPITALS. I THOUGHT THAT WE COULD ALL AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE COULD KEEP THE TEMPERATURE DOWN ON THIS ISSUE AND THIS WAS VERY MUCH OUR AIM. AS YOU HAD SAID IN YOUR PRESS CONFERENCE IT WAS YOUR OBJECTIVE TO RETURN TO A LOW PROFILE AND THIS WAS VERY MUCH IN LINE WITH OUR THINKING. I ASKED HER TO LET OTTAWA KNOW THIS.

2. MRS WADDS CALLED BACK TODAY TO SAY THAT SHE HAD TALKED TO GOTTLIEB AND PITFIELD AND THEY WERE GRATEFUL FOR THIS HELPFUL MESSAGE. THEY TOO WERE TRYING TO PLAY IT COOL. THEY REFERRED TO MR TRUDEA'S TRUST IN THE PRIME MINISTER AND CONFIDENCE IN HER HANDLING OF THE ISSUE. THEY SYMPATHISED WITH YOUR DIFFICULTIES. MR MACGUIGAN HAD NOT WANTED YOUR NAME TO BE RAISED IN THE HOUSE. SINCE YOU HAD APPARENTLY SPOKEN TO A NUMBER OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES THEY COULD NOT BE CONFIDENT THAT MORE OF THE SAME KIND OF THING WOULD NOT SURFACE BUT WE SHOULD BE READY TO HANDLE IT TOGETHER.

3. MRS WADDS ALSO REFERRED TO PRESS REPORTING ON THE SITUATION. EVEN THE NORMALLY RELIABLE TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL HAD NOT GIVEN FULL COVERAGE TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL PACKAGE WHICH HAD BEEN REFLECTED IN THE POLLS. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY NDP SUPPORT AND SIMILAR

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EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT IN POLITICAL MEETINGS NOT REPORTED IN THE PRESS.

4. THE CANADIANS WERE GRIEVED ABOUT THE LEAKS WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE. NORMALLY CANADIAN ISSUES COULD BE CONFINED TO DOMESTIC POLITICS BUT GIVEN THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION AND THE INTENSE DEGREE OF INTEREST IN THE REPATRIATION QUESTION THERE HAD INEVITABLY BEEN A SPILL-OVER. THEY NEEDED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S UNDERSTANDING ON THIS AND MR TRUDEAU WISHED THE PRIME MINISTER TO KNOW THAT HE HAD SOUGHT TO BE AS CAREFUL IN THE HANDLING OF THE ISSUE AS SHE HAD BEEN.

CARRINGTON

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