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CONFIDENTIAL



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Ref. A04425

MR. ALEXANDER

Premier Minister
ms *Am*

I was rung up on the evening of Friday, 6th March by Mr. Michael Pitfield, the Secretary to the Canadian Cabinet. The call was concerned with two matters, both relating to the Canadian constitutional issue:

- (a) Mr. Pitfield said that his Prime Minister had been wondering whether there should be at this stage any further contact on the issue between himself and Mrs. Thatcher. Mr. Pitfield said that he had been advising Mr. Trudeau that any such contact, if it was visible or avowable, was more likely to be embarrassing to both of them than useful at this stage. He wondered whether I would agree with this advice. I said that on the whole I would agree. I did not think that this was the moment for any visible contact like that made by Mr. Pym before Christmas. If Mr. Trudeau wanted to suggest some very private and confidential contact, I was sure that we would co-operate; but we would not be proposing or seeking any such contact ourselves.
- (b) Mr. Pitfield said that Mr. Trudeau was anxious that Mrs. Thatcher should be aware that he was following with close attention the way in which she dealt with the Canadian constitutional issue in answer to questions in the House of Commons, and was full of gratitude and admiration for the skilful way in which she was handling the matter.

I am sure this is still right.
Am

2. I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Paymaster General.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

9th March, 1981

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