

Subject: Alelons

Canada: Visit to

London of Mr. Trudeau: APR 1980

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EXTRACT FROM MEETING NOTE
PM/ MR. TRUDEAU - 25.6.80

far apart, why the Canadians did not feel able to continue. ECON POL.
It was agreed that, in principle, both sides would look for ways to re-open the talks as soon as possible.

Venice Summit

The Prime Minister asked Mr. Trudeau for his impressions. Mr. Trudeau said he was pleased and a bit surprised by the leaders' willingness to discuss political issues. Economic talks were important and had in the past helped to limit disarray among the participants in tackling economic problems. Perhaps the political talks would have the same result. Although each country had different answers to questions such as the Olympics, at least airing the difficulties avoided the differences becoming unmanageable. No-one had considered the break-up of the alliance. Discussion of the post-Afghanistan situation made it less likely that divergent solutions to the problem would be adopted. His general impression was good. Was the Prime Minister more pessimistic?

The Prime Minister said that she and Herr Schmidt had been keen to have the political discussion. For the first time since the Forties a totally independent country had been invaded by Russia. Western strategy post-Afghanistan had been strengthened at Venice. The pressure needed to be kept up on the non-aligned countries. This had been agreed.

But the Heads of Government had not got down to as much detail as she would have liked. What could be done if, for example, Pakistan or Turkey or Saudi Arabia fell apart? The world was full of trouble spots. There were two world ideologies and the free world should be putting its case much more strongly. It was clear that the detailed planning and discussion of how to manage world crises could not be carried out in the atmosphere of a Venice Summit, when the leaders were hounded all the time by journalists etc. She was disappointed that they had not been able to get to grips with details, but perhaps in the circumstances not much more could have been done. There was always the danger of leaks and misinformation.

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Mr. Trudeau said he fully agreed and suggested that in future the seven Heads of Government might be better served if there were no Communique but only a statement from the Chair endorsed by the other participants. The Prime Minister said that next time she would prefer not to have a Communique previously prepared by Personal Representatives. She and the other Heads of Government had been imprisoned by the draft Communique. On her return to this country she had been pilloried on an issue (the doubling of coal production by 1990) which, although in the Communique, had never been mentioned by the Heads of Government.

Mr. Trudeau said he agreed with all the Prime Minister's views. In the event that he chaired the next meeting he would be seeking to change the approach adopted at the summit and to find different ways of preparing the ground. He thought that more bilaterals were needed. Perhaps he or his Personal Representative could meet with each of the other participants in advance. The aim would be to establish what economic and political subjects seemed ripe for discussion. If a limited number of topics - say four or five - could be identified; a consensus achieved on what sort of outcome could be expected e.g. whether action was envisaged or not; and a timetable established in advance, then a fruitful discussion should be possible. Everyone in Venice had seemed willing to envisage improved procedures. The Prime Minister expressed some scepticism about what would be achieved but agreed that the effort should be made. The best discussions were those which were limited to the seven Heads of Government. Public cover for presentation would be needed to ensure that details of the real talks did not leak. Mr. Trudeau said that next year might be easier as by that time the various impending national elections would have been got out of the way.

The Prime Minister said that it was important for people to realise crises had been solved during the past six months. Cautious optimism, as Mr. Trudeau had said in Venice, was the right note to strike. The problems of the Communist World were far worse than was generally recognised. Mr. Trudeau commented on the close partnership between Chancellor Schmidt and President Giscard that had been in evidence in Venice. For obvious historical reasons this was in general to be welcomed. But it was important that it should not become too

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strong, e.g. after the forthcoming elections. The other participants would not welcome being sidelined. Agreeing, the Prime Minister commented on the helpful stance being adopted at present by the Japanese Government. She wondered whether the time was approaching when the question of an increase in Japanese defence spending might be broached.

As the meeting was ending Mr. Trudeau remarked that he had been very glad to note in Venice the importance which the Prime Minister obviously attached to the question of relations with the developing countries.

The discussion ended at 12.50.

PhDs

25 June 1980

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