

F3-11(1)

CONFIDENTIAL

April 28, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL PITFIELD

The Prime Minister's Proposed Meeting
with Mrs. Thatcher

I continue to have the view that it would be a mistake for the Prime Minister to meet with Mrs. Thatcher in the period prior to the Supreme Court handing down a decision. No matter what the announced purpose of the meeting was, the clear public interpretation would be that the meeting was to discuss the constitution. In addition, questions from the press following the meeting would focus almost exclusively on the question of timing at Westminster once the resolution reaches there and we do not want this issue discussed in public until the resolution is in Westminster.

Therefore, I recommend that the Prime Minister not see Mrs. Thatcher as proposed by the Department of External Affairs.

Despite this recommendation, it might be desirable to have an informal approach made to find out if Mrs. Thatcher is interested in seeing the Prime Minister in May.

[REDACTED]

s.19(1)

Michael J.L. Kirby