

NAD

CCD

NEWS DEPT

PS

PS/LPS

PS/MR LUCE

PS/MR DAY

PS/MR URE

MR FREELAND LEGAL ADVISER K200A

DR PARRY

RC

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 040800Z

FM OTTAWA 032255Z DEC 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 687 OF 3 DECEMBER

IMMEDIATE
ADVANCE COPYMIPT: CONSTITUTION

1. AT MY LUNCHEON WITH MR TRUDEAU TODAY HE GAVE ME AN INDICATION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR THE QUEEN TO PROCLAIM THE NEW CONSTITUTION. MR TRUDEAU HAS IN MIND THE DATE OF 15 FEBRUARY FOR THIS (THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE PRESENT CANADIAN FLAG) AND KIRBY WHO HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SIR PHILIP MOORE SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD ME THAT HER MAJESTY HAD TENTATIVELY AGREED TO COME TO CANADA FROM 13-15 FEBRUARY. WHEN I SAID THAT I DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE SAFE TO ASSUME THAT THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT WOULD HAVE PASSED LEGISLATION IN TIME TO MEET SUCH A DEADLINE MR TRUDEAU SAID THAT IF THAT WERE THE CASE AND THE QUEEN WERE NOT THEN ABLE TO COME UNTIL SAY APRIL OR MAY, HE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THE CONSTITUTION PROCLAIMED WITHOUT HER MAJESTY'S PRESENCE SINCE TIME WAS OF THE ESSENCE ALTHOUGH HE WAS CLEARLY RELUCTANT TO CONTEMPLATE SUCH AN EVENTUALITY.

2. AT THE LUNCHEON KIRBY SAID THAT HE WONDERED WHETHER KNOWLEDGE THAT HER MAJESTY WAS PLANNING A VISIT TO CANADA FOR THE OCCASION ON 15 FEBRUARY MIGHT ACT AS AN INCENTIVE FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER EXPEDITIOUSLY. I SAID AT ONCE THAT I WAS SURE THAT HMG WOULD BE VERY STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY SUGGESTION THAT HER MAJESTY'S PLANS SHOULD BE USED TO PUT PRESSURE TO ACCELERATE CONSIDERATION IN EITHER HOUSE, THOUGH CLEARLY IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND THE PALACE TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH PRIVATELY ABOUT ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH COULD NOT VERY WELL BE MADE AT THE LAST MOMENT. MR TRUDEAU ACCEPTED THIS. KIRBY SUBSEQUENTLY

ABOUT ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH COULD NOT VERY WELL BE MADE AT THE LAST MOMENT. MR TRUDEAU ACCEPTED THIS. KIRBY SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD ME THAT HE HAD BEEN PROMPTED TO SPECULATE IN THIS BY A REPORT FROM CANADA HOUSE (REEVES HAGGAN) THAT HER MAJESTY'S TENTATIVE PLANS TO VISIT CANADA WERE LEAKING AS A RESULT OF PRINCE PHILIP'S CANCELLATION OF A TRIP WHICH CLASHED WITH THE DATES IN QUESTION.

*Paragraph 3 deleted and closed, 40 years,
under FOI Exemption.*

*Wayland
20 June 2013*

MORAN

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