

SAVING TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

BY BAG

FROM OTTAWA

TO FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

TELNO 17 SAVING

4 DECEMBER 1981

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ADDRESSED TO FCO TELEGRAM NO 17 SAVING OF 4 DECEMBER 1981

REPEATED FOR INFORMATION TO WASHINGTON AND PARIS

MR TRUDEAU'S FUTURE

My impression following my luncheon with Mr Trudeau is that he does not repeat not intend to retire soon, despite a great deal of recent speculation to that effect. He clearly envisages a fight to the death with Mr Lévesque, and told me that this must be tackled now and not in 2 years' time. It seemed to me that he is determined to win this fight, to beat the separatists and break up their party. This is something only he might be able to do, and if, rather than simply bringing home the Constitution, would be the logical culmination of a political life spent in grappling with the problem of Quebec's relationship with Canada. So my guess is that he will stay on till that fight is substantially over. But I could be wrong.

2. In his press conference later the same day Trudeau was asked about the rumours of his early retirement and said he could be roped in to fight another election though he was not anxious to do this "but sometimes you can't resist a draft, can you?"

MORAN

[THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]
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REPEATED SAVING TO WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, UKMIS NEW YORK
AND MOSCOW

CANADA: DISARMAMENT AND THE DETERRENT

When I lunched yesterday with the Prime Minister I asked him whether he still adhered to the policy of "suffocating" nuclear weapons he proposed at the UN in 1978 and whether this remained consistent with support for the policy of deterrence, which had kept the peace for 36 years.

2. Mr Trudeau said that he still thought his arguments valid and thought that no better ideas had been put forward. He was concerned to stop the threat of ever more fearsome weapons threatening the lives of our children. He said that there had been discussion on these lines at the recent Pugwash conference in Alberta. I thought it interesting that he was aware of the conference. In the discussion that followed I was struck by his underlying antagonism towards the Americans in general and the Reagan administration in particular. He dwelt on the heedless remarks they had made and only grudgingly conceded that President Reagan's offer of the zero option had been helpful. I told him it had been warmly welcomed by Mrs Thatcher and Chancellor Schmidt, and that HMG now thought it very important that the Americans should be firmly supported and the Russians pressed to make an adequate response.

3. In talking about the strategic balance Mr Trudeau said that he had recently had in his house Mr Cy Taylor (the political Deputy Under-Secretary in the DEA) and the Soviet Ambassador (whom I believe he sees regularly and who is a former director of agitprop in the Central Committee. Mr Yakovlev had, he said, cast doubt on the figures given by Mr Caspar Weinberger (whose name he could not remember - his Secretary had to remind him) on the strategic imbalance. Evidently Mr Trudeau was disposed to believe Mr Yakovlev rather than Mr Weinberger. He asked me how HMG assessed the position. I told him that we had no doubts that the balance had tilted sharply against the West. I gave him our figures on tanks, submarines and missiles to illustrate the size of the gap and pointed out that the Soviet

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Union now had 7 times the number of submarines that the Germans had in 1939. All this seemed to be news to Mr Trudeau. I think it may be a case of wilful ignorance. His myopia in this field contrasted sharply with his tough, knowledgeable and determined stance about a problem he does understand like Quebec. His Private Secretary, Fowler, was, however, well informed and spoke up helpfully during the discussion.

4. When the unilateralist policy of the Labour Party was brought up I said that the New Democratic Party had similar policies and advocated withdrawal from NATO. Curiously Trudeau was aware that this policy had been reaffirmed at the party's conference this summer. The three officials present were not. Trudeau said he thought the resolution had been passed against the wishes of the leadership.

5. FCO please pass Saving to Washington, UKDEL NATO, UKMIS New York and Moscow.

MORAN

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]
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