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cc/PC



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

31 May 1984

Governor-General of Canada

Thank you for your letter of 30 May.

The Prime Minister has asked me to say that it is with the greatest regret that she must decline the High Commissioner's invitation to dinner on 12 or 13 June to meet Madame Sauve. She recalls her earlier meetings with Madame Sauve with great pleasure. But these dates fall towards the end of the European Election campaign and the Prime Minister is very heavily committed to that and other events at that time.

I am also afraid that at this stage - and for the same reasons - we are unable to find a time when the Prime Minister could offer a talk. But we will look at this possibility again as soon as the Economic Summit is over.

Could you kindly convey the above to the Canadian High Commissioner today?

A. J. COLES

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Prime Minister.

You do not have a dinner Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 12 or 13 June. But, with the elections, it may be best not to tell us this evening.

London SW1A 2AH
30 May, 1984

Dear John

You could offer Madame Sauve a drink at 1500 (after kissing) on 14 June. Do you want to?

A.F.C. 21/5
Governor-General of Canada

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The Canadian High Commission have asked us whether it would be possible for the Prime Minister to attend a dinner at the High Commissioner's residence on 12 or 13 June in honour of the new Governor-General of Canada, Madame Jeanne Sauve, who will be in London for an audience of The Queen. We understand the invitation was made at the specific request of Madame Sauve, who you will recall was Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons at the time of the Prime Minister's visit to Canada last September.

The Canadians would obviously be delighted if the Prime Minister was able to accept such an invitation. But we realise that this is an exceptionally busy period for the Prime Minister. If it was not possible for her to accept an invitation, it would be useful to know whether Mrs Thatcher would wish to offer Madame Sauve a brief call at some point during her visit to London from 11-14 June.

A personality note on Madame Sauve is attached.

Yours ever,

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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SAUVÉ, The Hon Jeanne PC

Governor-General of Canada since May 1984

Born in Saskatchewan in 1922

Educated at Universities of Ottawa and Paris. National President of the Young Catholic Students Group, 1942, and a founder of the Fédération des Mouvements des Jeunesse du Québec 1947. Special Assistant to the Director of the UNESCO Youth Programme in Paris, 1951; freelance journalist on the CBC and for the Montreal Star. Was a member of the board of directors of CKAC Radio Station, Montreal and of Bushnell Communications Limited of Ottawa. President of the Canadian Institute of Public Affairs 1964; a former Secretary-General of the Federation of Authors and Artists of Canada. Elected to the House of Commons in 1972 she was immediately made Minister of State for Science and Technology. She subsequently became Minister for the Environment (August 1974) and Minister of Communications (1976). She was Speaker of the House of Commons from the Liberal Government's return to power in February 1980 until her appointment as Governor-General. Madame Sauvé is the first woman to hold either post.

Married to Maurice Sauvé, former Liberal MP and Minister of Forestry and Rural Development. 1 son. Both she and her husband know Britain well.

She has charm and presence but remains very much a partisan Liberal.