

NB: C/F Rejeer.

PRIME MINISTERMEETING WITH CONRAD BLACK

Conrad Black is coming in tomorrow for a brief talk.

The Telegraph has moved to the Isle of Dogs and greatly weakened the role of the print unions. Its financial position is quite satisfactory and its circulation is moving back up (1.18 million I believe). That much is satisfactory, and you may like to congratulate him.

But its editorial line remains quirky and unpredictable. Generally it was pretty solid during the Election, and you might thank him for that. Conrad Black has also intervened personally to direct their coverage of Irangate in a direction favourable to the President (he feels strongly about this). But generally he has been reluctant to intervene much. And there have been some pretty odd articles e.g. the recent one on honours, for which you could take him to task.

Conrad Black gives a big annual dinner in Toronto for all the leading Canadian businessmen and bankers, which is exceptionally well attended. It will be held the evening before or after the Economic Summit next year. I think that he will invite you to attend and speak briefly. You might say that you will consider this favourably subject to the dates fitting. It is a good forum (and he will be very much in your debt if you accept).

C.D.P.

CDP

30 July 1987

JALBKE