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From the High Commissioner

29 April 1988

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Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
No. 10 Downing Street
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Rea Charles

TORONTO G7 SUMMIT: DINNER IN HONOUR OF THE PRIME MINISTER ON
TUESDAY 21 JUNE

1. Conrad Black (whom I have got to know quite well since my arrival here) telephoned me on his return from his most recent visit to London to tell me that he had been in touch with you and that you had suggested he be in contact with me about more detailed arrangements for the dinner he will be hosting in the Prime Minister's honour after the formal ending of the Toronto Summit on 21 June. I duly called on Conrad Black, accompanied by our Consul-General Bryan Sparrow, when visiting Toronto on 28 April.

VENUE AND TIMING

2. The dinner will be held at the Toronto Club (very near the hotel where the Prime Minister will be staying), with guests being invited for 7.00 pm and dinner due to start at 8.00 pm. It would of course be for the Prime Minister to decide at precisely what time she would wish to arrive: the period before dinner would allow her to mingle with the guests. The proceedings might be expected to end fairly soon after 10.00 pm. Conrad Black enquired whether you would wish him to call at the hotel for the Prime Minister and accompany her to the dinner or whether she would prefer him to greet her on arrival.

HOLLINGER INC - THE US DIMENSION

3. The dinner is on the occasion of the annual general meeting of Hollinger Inc, of which Conrad Black is Chairman and Chief Executive. Hollinger was formed in 1985 from an amalgamation of Canadian companies and, as you know, took a 58% interest in the then loss-making Telegraph group in the same year (I understand that, in its new premises and with modern technology, the Telegraph is now making money). In January 1987 Hollinger invested over US\$106 million through the American Publishing Company to acquire 22 daily newspapers in the United States. A few months previously, the company had also acquired Sterling Newspapers Ltd, a Vancouver-based company publishing 9 daily newspapers in British Columbia. As a result of these acquisitions, the corporate profile of



Hollinger has switched from a holding company with interests in distribution and the wholesaling of food to one in which 75% of all revenues now come from newspapers in Canada, the US and the UK. In addition, Conrad Black also has considerable other publishing interests. But Black emphasised that, because of the important US interests of the Group, the dinner will have a US/Canada/UK flavour rather than being exclusively Canadian/British.

OTHER GUESTS

4. Conrad Black has undertaken to let me have a full guest list as soon as possible. But he is hoping that Madame Sauvé, the Governor General, and the Canadian Prime Minister will be present, as well as the Premier of Ontario (who told me separately that he firmly intended to be there, having called on Mrs Thatcher in London quite recently). The US guests are likely to include Dr Kissinger (who is associated with the Hollinger Group), the US Ambassador and also Mrs Graham of the Washington Post. The total number of guests is likely to be about 150. Naturally the demand for places is very great and Conrad Black asked whether it might be possible to keep the number of the Prime Minister's party down to about four. He would be grateful for names as soon as these can be made available. He would invite me separately as High Commissioner.

SPEECHES

5. The toasts and speeches would be likely to come towards the end of the dinner (I will seek more precision on this point nearer the time) and the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario would be likely to propose a toast to the President of the United States; rather oddly, I thought, the US Ambassador would propose a toast to The Queen. Conrad Black would himself introduce the Prime Minister and he suggested that she might wish to speak for 15-20 minutes. He thought that a speech on free enterprise and the virtues of a capitalist economy (themes very dear to Black's heart) would go down particularly well with this audience. Either the Canadian Prime Minister or Dr Kissinger would be asked to reply.

PUBLICITY

6. Conrad Black feared that news of the dinner was likely to leak very soon, as the invitations began to go out, and he did not think there was very much that could be done about this. He was not thinking in terms of any formal announcement, but rather that the news would gradually become known to a wider circle. Normally speeches at Hollinger dinners were not on the record, but there would be prominent newspaper owners and other media representatives there and Black's own view was that on this occasion the advantage lay in making it on the record; but he would naturally be guided by the Prime Minister's wishes.

SECURITY

7. There were likely to be a great many security officers around, especially as the Governor General, the Canadian Prime Minister and even Dr Kissinger each had their own special security arrangements.



Black hoped therefore that it would not be necessary, in the limited space available, to seat all the security officers at dinner. I said that I thought the security arrangements were best discussed separately with ourselves and the RCMP nearer the time.

8. I should be most grateful for any guidance you can give me on the foregoing and also advise on any further information you require. I enclose an additional copy of this letter for Sheila Waghorn in the FCO Protocol Department, in case you wish to pass it to her.

*Yours ever,
Alan*

A B Urwick