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GRS 260

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DEDIP

FM OTTAWA

TO DESKBY 230830Z FCO

TELNO 219

OF 222245Z APRIL 86

YOUR TELNO 143: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO EXPO

1. IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO DEVISE ANY ALTERNATIVE ENGAGEMENT FOR THE EVENING OF JULY 12 WHICH WILL APPEAR AS A CONVINCING REASON FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S ABSENCE FROM THE ROYAL BALLET OPENING NIGHT. ALTHOUGH NEITHER WE NOR VANCOUVER HAVE GIVEN ANY INDICATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S PROGRAMME FOR THAT EVENING, THERE IS A GENERAL ASSUMPTION THAT SHE WILL ATTEND THIS MAJOR BRITISH CULTURAL EVENT. I VERY MUCH HOPE THEREFORE THAT THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES CAN BE OVERCOME AND THAT A FURTHER EFFORT MIGHT BE MADE TO CONSIDER WHETHER PRINCESS MARGARET COULD ATTEND THE PERFORMANCE ON JULY 13 RATHER THAN JULY 12.

2. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, MY FALL-BACK ADVICE WOULD BE TO ACCEPT, HOWEVER RELUCTANTLY, THE ELEMENT OF DUPLICATION ON 12 JULY.

3. IF THE PRESENCE OF BOTH PRINCESS MARGARET AND THE PRIME MINISTER ON JULY 12 IS RULED OUT, I HAVE THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS:

(A) A DINNER HOSTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER (50-60 GUESTS) FOR LEADING POLITICAL AND BUSINESS PERSONALITIES FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA. WE WOULD ALSO AIM TO INVITE PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN FROM ELSEWHERE IN WESTERN CANADA AND PERHAPS ALSO FROM MONTREAL/TORONTO. NO FORMAL SPEECH WOULD BE REQUIRED, THOUGH A FEW REMARKS (5 TO 10 MINUTES) BY THE PRIME MINISTER, WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND APPRECIATED. THIS FUNCTION COULD BE PRESENTED AS RETURN HOSPITALITY FOR THE LUNCHEON OFFERED IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S HONOUR AND AS THE PRIME MINISTER'S GESTURE TOWARDS BRITISH COLUMBIA.

(B) A SIMILAR EVENING FUNCTION HOSTED BY THE PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA IN HONOUR OF THE PRIME MINISTER. THIS WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO ORCHESTRATE. MR BENNETT MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY IN AGREEING TO HOST SUCH AN OCCASION ON THE BRITISH DAY SINCE THIS COULD COMMIT HIM TO OFFERING SIMILAR HOSPITALITY TO PROMINENT VISITORS ON OTHER NATIONAL DAYS.

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(C) A FULL (20 MINUTE) ADDRESS TO A SUITABLE BUSINESS/POLITICAL AUDIENCE. THE FRASER INSTITUTE HAS ALREADY ISSUED AN INVITATION BUT GIVEN ITS PARTISAN CHARACTER, IS NOT AN ALTOGETHER APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR A MAJOR SPEECH DURING AN OFFICIAL VISIT. THERE ARE OTHER ORGANISATIONS WHICH COULD SPONSOR SUCH AN EVENT, EG, THE CANADIAN CLUB OF VANCOUVER, OR THE LAW SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, FROM WHOM A REQUEST HAS ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED. ALTERNATIVELY A 20 MINUTE SPEECH COULD BE MADE AT THE FUNCTION SUGGESTED AT (A) ABOVE.

(D) EARLY DEPARTURE FROM VANCOUVER (AROUND 6 PM) FOR OTTAWA OR MONTREAL. THE PRIME MINISTER COULD THEN OVERNIGHT IN EITHER CITY, HOLD HER DISCUSSIONS WITH MR MULRONEY ON THE MORNING OF JULY 13 AND DEPART FROM CANADA IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON, ARRIVING BACK IN LONDON BEFORE MIDNIGHT LOCAL TIME.

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S.R. W. HARDING.

MR DAVID THOMAS.

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