

GRS 210

CONFIDENTIAL

Amc 027/1	
RECEIVED	TRY
2 JUN 1986	
REGISTRY	

CONFIDENTIAL
 FM OTTAWA
 TO DESKBY 020800Z FCO
 TELNO 307
 OF 301835Z MAY 86

93

94

84

AM 397/4 20

MY TELNOS 277 AND 278: BUT ALSO 252 AND 219: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO EXPO

1. THE PROVINCIAL CO-ORDINATOR OF OFFICIAL VISITS FOR EXPO 86 HAS TOLD CONSUL-GENERAL VANCOUVER THAT MR BENNETT WOULD BE VERY DELIGHTED TO HOST A DINNER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER ON SATURDAY EVENING 12 JULY IF THAT WERE POSSIBLE FOR HER.
2. THIS DOES NOT AFFECT THE MAIN ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF ATTENDANCE AT THE BALLET EG IN PARAS 1 TO 3 OF MY TELNO 252.
3. IT DOES HOWEVER LARGELY OVERTAKE THE POINTS IN PARA 3 (B) OF MY TELNO 219. IT MAY BE THAT MR BENNETT FEELS FREE TO SET A PRECEDENT BECAUSE HE WILL HIMSELF BE STEPPING DOWN (ON A DATE THAT HAS YET TO BE ANNOUNCED: BUT VERY POSSIBLY AS SOON AS HIS SUCCESSOR HAS BEEN CHOSEN IN THE LEADERSHIP CONVENTION ON 30 JULY.)
4. THERE COULD BE CRITICISM AND SOME SURPRISE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD CHOSEN TO SPEND THE EVENING OF BRITISH DAY WITH THIS OUTGOING PROVINCIAL LEADER (BENNETT IS NOT A LOUGHEED OR A DAVIS), INSTEAD OF AT A MAJOR BRITISH OCCASION: AND SUGGESTIONS THAT SHE WAS BEING USED TO BOOST THE FORTUNES OF A PROVINCIAL PARTY THAT MAY SOON GO TO THE POLLS. WE WOULD NEED TO TOUCH BASE WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BEFORE ACCEPTING.
5. IT IS LIKELY, BUT NOT CERTAIN, THAT WE COULD SELL MOST IF NOT ALL THE (JUST OVER 200) BALLET TICKETS WE HAVE ORDERED FOR THE 12TH.
6. ON BALANCE I WOULD STILL RECOMMEND ATTENDANCE AT THE BALLET AS THE PRINCIPAL BRITISH CULTURAL MANIFESTATION AT EXPO, FOR THE ABOVE REASONS AND FOR THE ARGUMENTS IN PARA 2 OF MY TELNO 252, (WHICH ARE STRENGTHENED AS WE WOULD HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER MR BENNETT'S GUEST LIST). BUT IF ATTENDANCE AT THE BALLET STILL CAUSES SERIOUS DIFFICULTY MR BENNETT'S INVITATION COULD OFFER A REASONABLY CONVINCING AND ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE.

DAY

LIMITED

NAD

INFO.D.

PROTOCOL D.

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/PUS

SIR.W. HARDING

CONFIDENTIAL

PM TOURS - Expo 86 Jan 86

