

STRICTLY PERSONAL



*Mr Pm*  
(51)

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

22 January 1989

Thank you for your letter of 19 January with its interesting enclosure. I will, if I may, reflect on this for a short while before letting you have a definitive reply. But I am most grateful to you for sending it.

C. D. Powell

R.I.J. Agnew, Esq.

PERSONAL



File PM  
cc PM

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

21 January 1989

EARNSCLIFFE

Thank you for your letter of 19 January about Earnscliffe. In fact Conrad Black himself telephoned me out of the blue a couple of weeks ago with a slightly different version of the story. If I understood correctly - and I was trying to do something else at the time - Peter White had actually bought the other house, presumably Berkenfels, for a very large sum, and was now looking for someone to take it off his hands. The Canadian Government, or possibly the Ottawa City Government, might be persuaded to do so if we were to say at the highest level that we might want to consider a move out of Earnscliffe. Of course in practice it was quite clear that we would not move, but even the vaguest possibility would be enough.....

I said all this sounded a bit ropey to me. I would think about it - which I have not done until the moment I received your letter - but did not see any way in which we could help.

I would not wish this conversation with Conrad Black to be known widely, or to be reported back to him. But I have no objection to your telling Alan Urwick in strict confidence.

C.D. POWELL

Richard Gozney, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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PERSONAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 January 1989

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Dear Charles,

Earnscliffe: British High Commissioner's  
Residence in Ottawa

You may recall that, at Conrad Black's dinner for the Prime Minister during the Toronto Economic Summit, Peter White (then Conrad Black's Deputy, now in Mr Mulroney's office) raised with the Prime Minister the subject of the Canadian wish to buy the High Commissioner's Residence, Earnscliffe, from us. It would become a memorial to John MacDonald, Canada's first Prime Minister.

This subject has now been raised with our High Commissioner in Ottawa and it is just possible that the subject could come up during one of Mr Mulroney's telephone conversations with the Prime Minister.

We wish neither to sell Earnscliffe nor to swap it for another Residence, if one were offered. (There is a suggestion that the Canadians purchase a property called Berkenfels and then persuade us to swap it for Earnscliffe.)

Sir Alan Urwick has already made our position quite clear to Peter White, namely:-

- John MacDonald lived at Earnscliffe for 8 years - we have owned and maintained it for 60!
- We have full title to Earnscliffe, which we acquired on the open market.
- We have spent considerable sums putting the house into good order.
- Earnscliffe meets our purposes perfectly and we have neither the need nor the desire to move.

/We



- We do not want Berkenfels to be purchased by any Canadian authority (or by anyone on their behalf) in the expectation that HMG might be persuaded to swap it for Earnsliffe.

The Foreign Secretary hopes that, if Mr Mulroney raises the matter, the Prime Minister will discourage him.

Yours ever,

*Richard Gozney*

(R H T Gozney)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
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