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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 November 1983

Dear John,

*in folder
attached to file*

MR

Prime Minister's Meeting with Mr Trudeau: 11 November

I enclose briefs for the Prime Minister's meeting with Mr Trudeau on 11 November.

Mr Trudeau's visit to London comes at the end of a European tour during which he is also visiting Rome, Bonn, Paris, Brussels and The Hague. His main purpose has been to discuss with European leaders the ideas he has recently been advancing about East/West relations and Arms Control issues.

We believe Mr Trudeau's present initiative arises from a genuine concern to do something to reduce East/West tension. But he is also motivated by personal and political considerations. He would like to be seen to play a role in East/West relations as he previously sought to do in the North/South dialogue. A success in this field might help revive the fortunes of the Liberal Party and could conceivably lead him to stay on in politics, although Canadian officials have also told us that Mr Trudeau sees his present activity as his "Swan Song".

The Prime Minister's discussion with Mr Trudeau will be a logical follow-up to their meeting in Ottawa in September. Mr Trudeau will be seeking support for his belief that there is a need to re-establish a political dialogue with the Soviet Union and that he himself could serve as the initial go-between. He also has ideas for a number of specific measures in the arms control field. We have important reservations about some of Mr Trudeau's ideas and there is little chance that his approach will find widespread support among other NATO countries. The meeting will nevertheless present an opportunity for the Prime Minister to reiterate that the UK is ready to look positively at serious attempts to reduce East/West tension, and more generally to reaffirm the value which we attach to our links with Canada.

/Although

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Although the main purpose of Mr Trudeau's visit is to focus on East/West relations it seems likely, in view of Canada's interests in the area and the unfavourable reaction in Canada to the US-led intervention, that he will wish to talk about the future of Grenada, about which he also spoke to the Prime Minister by telephone on 27 October. We have also provided briefs on the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference and on Belize which might also be raised. In view of the recent exchange of messages between the Prime Minister and Mr Trudeau on the latter's talks with the Chinese Foreign Minister, a brief on Hong Kong will follow separately, in case the Canadians should raise this.

We have included a brief on UK/Canada bilateral issues following up some of the points which came up during the Prime Minister's visit to Canada. However, we have been told by the Canadians that Mr Trudeau is very unlikely to raise any of these and we do not recommend that the Prime Minister should do so.

/ I also enclose copies of Ottawa telegram No 601 of
8 November which provides further background to Mr Trudeau's
/ visit as seen from Ottawa on the eve of his journey; and
of Moscow telegram No 1275 recording the public Soviet
reaction to Mr Trudeau's initiative.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

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10 Downing Street



10 DOWNING STREET

MR. COLES

Canadian Visit
Friday, 11 November

Mr. Garry Smith will be
the notetaker on the Canadian
side for the meeting tomorrow
morning with the Canadian PM.

Sue

10 November 1983

LUNCH FOR THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA ON FRIDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 1983
AT 12.45 PM FOR 1.00 PM

The Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, PC, MP

His Excellency the High Commissioner for Canada

Mr. Robert Fowler

Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet
(Foreign and Defence Policy)

Mr. Garry Smith

Director of Arms Control and
Disarmament Division, Department
of External Affairs

Sir Antony Acland

? Mr. Patrick Wright

Mr. John Coles