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FM OTTAWA 152230Z NOV 83

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 615 OF 15 NOVEMBER

INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, UKDEL NATO AND TOKYO

INFO SAVING OTHER NATO POSTS, UKDEL VIENNA AND UKMIS NEW YORK

MY TELNO 610 TO FCO: EAST/WEST RELATIONS: TRUDEAU INITIATIVE.

SUMMARY

1. CANADIAN COMMENT ON TRUDEAU'S MONTREAL SPEECH HAS BEEN MIXED. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE ANALYSIS OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROPOSALS. THE GOODWILL WHICH TRUDEAU HAS SO FAR RECEIVED FOR HIS INITIATIVE FROM THE OPPOSITION AND MOST LEADER-WRITERS HAS DIMINISHED AS A RESULT OF HIS CHOICE OF A PARTY FORUM RATHER THAN PARLIAMENT IN WHICH TO DIVULGE DETAILS OF HIS PROPOSALS AND TO REPORT ON HIS EUROPEAN TOUR.

DETAIL

2. THE INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT TRUDEAU WAS PLANNING A MAJOR INITIATIVE WAS GREETED IN SOME QUARTERS WITH SCEPTICISM AS A MOVE TO COUNTER THE PRESENT UNPOPULARITY OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER ONCE TRUDEAU'S TRIP TO EUROPE GOT UNDERWAY AND REPORTS WERE RECEIVED OF THE REPORTEDLY POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM SOME EUROPEAN LEADERS THE STATUS OF THE INITIATIVE ROSE IN PUBLIC PERCEPTION: AND DETAILS OF HIS PROPOSALS WERE AWAITED WITH INTEREST. TRUDEAU HAS NOW DISSIPATED MUCH OF THAT ADVANTAGE BY CHOOSING TO REPORT PROGRESS NOT TO PARLIAMENT, BUT TO A LIBERAL PARTY FUND-RAISING LUNCHEON IN MONTREAL.

3. THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, MULRONEY, HAS POINTED OUT, QUIETLY BUT EFFECTIVELY, THAT THE PROPER COURSE WOULD HAVE BEEN TO REPORT TO THE CANADIAN PEOPLE BY WAY OF PARLIAMENT. TRUDEAU MADE THINGS WORSE BY NOT EVEN BOTHERING TO BE PRESENT DURING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION TIME YESTERDAY. HE COULD HARDLY HAVE MADE HIS CONTEMPT FOR PARLIAMENT PLAINER.

4. ON THE SUBSTANCE, COMMENTATORS GENERALLY AGREE WITH TRUDEAU ON THE NEED FOR SPECIAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE EAST/WEST RELATIONS, BUT SEE LITTLE EVIDENCE FROM HIS MONTREAL SPEECH THAT HE HAS YET COME UP WITH ANYTHING EITHER RADICALLY NEW OR LIKELY TO PROSPER. HIS STAFF MEANWHILE HAVE DONE NOTHING TO DISCOURAGE SUGGESTIONS - SOMEWHAT PREMATURE IN MY VIEW - THAT HE MIGHT BE IN THE RUNNING FOR A NOBEL PRIZE, AND IN HIS MONTREAL SPEECH HE HIMSELF DID NOT FAIL TO MAKE A PASSING MENTION OF ALFRED NOBEL.

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5. ON CONTACTS WITH THE US ADMINISTRATION, MACEACHEN HAS TOLD THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS SUGGESTED A MEETING. TRUDEAU'S OFFICE HAVE INDICATED THAT THIS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE TRUDEAU LEAVES FOR JAPAN, NEW DELHI AND THE GULF ON 17 NOVEMBER. HE RETURNS ON 5 DECEMBER. MR KENNETH DAM IS IN OTTAWA TODAY, PRIMARILY TO TRY TO EXPLAIN GRENADA, BUT HE WILL NO DOUBT TELL CANADIAN MINISTERS HOW TRUDEAU'S INITIATIVE IS SEEN IN WASHINGTON.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES.

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

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