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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 65 OF 31 JANUARY

INFO PRIORITY TO WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, MOSCOW, BUCHAREST,
EAST BERLIN

INFO SAVING TO PRAGUE, BUDAPEST, OTHER NATO POSTS, UKHIS NEW YORK

THE TRUDEAU INITIATIVE mf

1. MR TRUDEAU WAS IN PRAGUE LAST WEEK. THE CZECH PREMIER IS REPORTED TO HAVE PREDICTABLY ATTACKED THE UNITED STATES. MR TRUDEAU'S REPLY, CIRCULATED HERE, CONTAINS NO ANSWER TO THESE CHARGES, NO REFERENCE TO NATO OR NATO POLICY OR TO NATO ARMS CONTROL OFFERS. MR TRUDEAU IS REPORTED AS SUGGESTING THAT CANADA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA WERE IN A SIMILAR POSITION IN RELATIONS TO THE SUPER POWERS.

2. HITHERTO MR TRUDEAU'S INITIATIVE HAS ENJOYED BROAD PUBLIC SUPPORT IN CANADA. MOST CANADIANS HERE APPEAR TO FEEL THAT HE WAS RIGHT TO TRY TO REDUCE TENSION, HOWEVER DIFFICULT THIS MIGHT BE. THE CONSERVATIVES HAVE THOUGHT IT PRUDENT NOT TO CRITICISE HIS INITIATIVE AND HAVE INDEED SENT MR JOE CLARK ABROAD TO EXPLORE ARMS CONTROL POSSIBILITIES IN A "ME TOO" EXERCISE - HE IS CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON.

3. OVER THE WEEKEND REPORTS WERE CARRIED PROMINENTLY ON THE REMARKS MADE BY MR TRUDEAU AT AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM IN DAVOS ON SATURDAY AT WHICH HE EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THE CREDIBILITY AND CORRECTNESS OF NATO NUCLEAR STRATEGY AND CLASHED WITH MR KENNETH DAM AND MR BARRE (TEXT OF EXCHANGES FOLLOWS BY BAG). AT A PANEL DISCUSSION, FOLLOWING REMARKS BY MR DAM UNDERLINING THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE CREDIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES'S COMMITMENT TO PROTECT ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES, MR TRUDEAU ASKED WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WOULD IN FACT START WORLD WAR III BECAUSE EUROPE WAS BEING OVERRUN. MR DAM SAID THAT MR TRUDEAU'S REMARKS RESTED ON AN ERRONEOUS ASSUMPTION THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD STEADILY BUILT UP ITS NUCLEAR ARSENAL WHEREAS IN FACT MEGATONNAGE HAD BEEN STEADILY REDUCED. MR BARRE REFUSED TO JOIN MR TRUDEAU IN CASTING DOUBT ON THE UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO EUROPE AND SAID THAT IF THERE WAS, AS MR TRUDEAU CLAIMED, NO CREDIBILITY IN THE ALLIANCE, THAT WOULD LEAD TO NEUTRALISM AND PACIFISM.

4. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE TRUDEAU INITIATIVE BEGAN, THE MEDIA HAVE HIGHLIGHTED MR TRUDEAU'S DIFFERENCES WITH NATO POLICY AND THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY HAS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, BEEN CRITICAL.

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5. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT AT DAVOS MR TRUDEAU HAS, IN HIS CHARACTER-
ISTIC FREE-WHEELING ACADEMIC STYLE, LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG,
AND IS SAYING WHAT HE REALLY THINKS AND WHAT I BELIEVE HE HAS
ALWAYS THOUGHT ABOUT NATO AND NATO POLICY. HIS VIEWS HAVE NOT
SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGED SINCE HE CAME TO POWER IN 1968, SUBSEQUENTLY
TRIED TO TAKE CANADA OUT OF NATO AND, AFTER BEING DISSUADED FROM
THIS COURSE, REDUCED CANADIAN FORCES IN EUROPE BY A HALF. I DO NOT
THINK THAT HE REALLY BELIEVES IN NATO OR NATO STRATEGY. HE PUTS
THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ON THE SAME LEVEL AND REGARDS
HIMSELF AS AT SOME MID-POINT BETWEEN THE TWO. THIS WEEK HE IS AWAY
TO EAST BERLIN AND BUCHAREST.

6. SO FAR HE HAS GOT AWAY WITH IT IN CANADA WHERE HE IS CLAIMING
CREDIT FOR EVERY FAVOURABLE DEVELOPMENT IN EAST/WEST RELATIONS -
THE ATTENDANCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THE OPENING OF THE CDE
CONFERENCE IN STOCKHOLM, THE DECISION TO RESUME THE MBFR TALKS, THE
SOFTER LINE TAKEN PUBLICLY BY PRESIDENT REAGAN AND, HE CLAIMS, BY
MRS THATCHER. IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT HE MAY NOW HAVE GONE TOO
FAR FOR THE CANADIAN PUBLIC. NEVERTHELESS THERE ARE FEW HERE IN
THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OR THE MEDIA WHO HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND
CAPACITY TO BRING THE FACTS HOME TO THE CANADIAN PUBLIC. THOSE
WHO ARE UNHAPPIEST ABOUT WHAT MR TRUDEAU IS DOING - MAINLY OFFICIALS
AND EX OFFICIALS - HAVE NO PUBLIC VOICE. BUT SOME OF THEM ARE
MUCH CONCERNED. A FORMER CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO NATO SAID TO ME
YESTERDAY OF THE TRUDEAU INITIATIVE: 'IT IS THE WRONG MAN AND
THE WRONG COUNTRY AND WE HAVEN'T IN FACT ANY USEFUL IDEAS TO PUT
FORWARD'. CANADIANS WILL NOW, I THINK, WAIT TO SEE WHETHER
AUTHORITATIVE VOICES IN THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER
NATO GOVERNMENTS TAKE MR TRUDEAU TO TASK OR NOT.

7. PLEASE PASS TO SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG AND NO.10 DOWNING STREET.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO ALL

REPEATED AS REQUESTED

MORAN

**THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED**

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COPIES TO
SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG CABINET
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