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TO DESKBY 010900Z FCO
TELNO 802
OF 302210Z NOVEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NATO
INFO PRIORITY BONN, PARIS, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW

NATO MEETING ON 4 DECEMBER: CANADIAN ANGLES

SUMMARY

1. MULRONEY UNLIKELY TO HAVE MUCH SUBSTANCE TO ADD ON HIS TALKS IN MOSCOW, BUT HAS POLITICAL REASONS FOR SEEKING THE SPOTLIGHT. HELPFUL IF HIS SUBSEQUENT BRIEFING OF CANADIAN MEDIA CAN CREDIBLY POINT TO THE IMPORTANCE ALLIES ATTACH TO THE CANADIAN PRESS IN EUROPE AT THIS TIME OF RAPID CHANGE IN THE EAST.

DETAIL

2. THE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE A FAIRLY FULL ACCOUNT OF MULRONEY IN MOSCOW FROM DEBRIEFING AT OFFICIAL LEVEL. WE MAY GET MORE IN THE LIGHT OF HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BUSH ON 29 NOVEMBER, AND WILL REPORT FURTHER IF WE DO SO. MEANWHILE, YOU MAY FIND USEFUL SOME THOUGHTS ON MULRONEY'S APPROACH TO THE NATO MEETING.

3. MULRONEY, WHO HAS AN IMPORTANT PARTY FUND-RAISING COMMITMENT IN MONTREAL ON THE EVENING OF 3 DECEMBER, WAS AT FIRST IN TWO MINDS ABOUT WHETHER TO MAKE THE JOURNEY. HAVING DECIDED TO DO SO, HE WILL ARRIVE SENSITIVE TO CANADIAN PRESS CRITICISM OF HIS SOVIET ODYSSEY: RATHER TOO MUCH QUOTE CATCHING UP AT LAST UNQUOTE TO ADD TO THE INEVITABLE CARPING ABOUT THE LACK OF LEADERSHIP FROM THOSE WHO DEFINE LEADERSHIP AS BREAKING AWAY FROM ALLIANCE CONSENSUS AND ANNOYING THE UNITED STATES. MULRONEY, HAVING RESISTED THE SIREN VOICES CALLING ON HIM TO ANNOUNCE EARLY TROOP REDUCTIONS OR TO LAUNCH A CANADIAN/SOVIET INITIATIVE ON SECURITY IN THE ARCTIC, WILL BE CONSCIOUS THAT HE HAS GAINED LITTLE OR NOTHING IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL TERMS BY ACTING, AS HE WOULD SEE IT, AS A LOYAL NATO TEAM LEADER. HE MAY CONSEQUENTLY BE A LITTLE TOO KEEN TO USE THE FORTHCOMING MEETING TO DEMONSTRATE THAT TEAM PLAYING PAYS DIVIDENDS.

4. IN MULRONEY'S TERMS, THIS MEANS FIRST OF ALL THAT HE SHOULD GET A SHARE OF THE LIMELIGHT, AS ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS WITH THE MOST RECENT FIRST HAND IMPRESSIONS. SECONDLY, HE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO

CLAIM THAT HE HAS QUOTE MOVED THINGS FORWARD UNQUOTE. FORTHCOMING LANGUAGE ABOUT ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION (PREFERABLY INCLUDING SOMETHING FROM THE AMERICANS ABOUT MFN) WOULD CERTAINLY HELP PARTICULARLY IF IT COULD NOT TOO IMPLAUSIBLY BE PRESENTED FOR HOME CONSUMPTION AS FOLLOWING IN THE CANADIAN PATH. AND HE WILL BE AMONGST THOSE WANTING TO PAINT A ROSY PICTURE OF THE PROSPECTS FOR CFE II.

5. THERE IS A REAL PROBLEM BENEATH THE POSTURING ON WHICH MULRONEY AND CLARK (WHO IS THE BETTER TEAM PLAYER OF THE TWO) MAY WELCOME HELP FROM THE THEIR ALLIES. THEY WOULD BOTH HAVE LIKED TO CONCLUDE THAT A MILITARY COMMITMENT TO EUROPE, OF A KIND NOT TOO DIFFERENT FROM THE FORESHADOWED IN THE 1987 DEFENCE WHITE PAPER, COULD BE MAINTAINED AT THE LEVELS OF FUNDING PROVIDED FOR IN THE 1989 BUDGET. THE PROFESSIONAL ADVISE IS THAT THIS WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE, AND MINISTERS HAVE ACCEPTED THAT ADVISE. BUT THEY NO DOUBT STILL HOPE THAT THE CONSEQUENT DEFENCE POLICY REVIEW WILL PRODUCE SOME ACCEPTABLE FUDGE.

6. THERE IS NOTHING MUCH THAT ALLIANCE PRESSURE CAN DO IN THE SHORT TERM TO INCREASE CANADIAN DEFENCE APPORPRIATIONS. THE WETTER MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT DONT CARE, AND THERE TOUGHER MINDED COLLEAGUES ARE DETERMINED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE BUDGET DEFICIT AND NOT EAGER TO SADDLE THEMSELVES WITH THE ADDITIONAL DOMESTIC POLITICAL HANDICAP OF APPEARING TO EXEMPT DEFENCE. BUT ALLIES CAN, BY REMEMBERING TO TALK TO THE CANADIAN AS WELL AS THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN EUROPE, AND BY TELLING MULRONEY AND CLARK IN PRIVATE THAT THEY MEAN IT, HELP TO STRENGTHEN THE POLITICAL DEFENCES AGAINST A PREMATURE RUN DOWN OF CANADIAN TROOPS. THEY WILL TO SOME EXTENT BE PREACHING TO THE CONVERTED (NOT LEAST BECAUSE MULRONEY, PERHAPS REFLECTING ANXIETY ABOUT GERMAN REUNIFICATION, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH IMPRESSED BY GORBACHEV'S EMPHASIS ON THE CONTINUING IMPORTANCE OF THE TWO ALLIANCES). BUT IT WILL BE WORTH DOING ANYWAY, SO THAT MULRONEY AND CLARK ARE IN A POSITION TO SAY THAT THAT IS WHAT THERE ALLIES THINK, AT A TIME WHEN CANADIAN PUBLIC OPINION IS BUSY PERSUADING ITSELF THAT IT'S OVER, OVER THERE.

7. FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO NO. 10 AND MODUK.

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