



N H Marshall Esq
North America Dept
FCO

Sean Noel,

BRIAN MULRONEY

B.U. 1st May

Muri Hughes

This might be worth showing to Mr Day at some point - perhaps when we do his briefing

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION
80 ELGIN STREET
OTTAWA K1P 5K7
27 March 1984

Amc 01/3		4/4
04 APR 1984		
OFFICER	PA	TELEPH
X	PA	TELEPH
	PA/4	@4/4

*Mr MacKenzie should see
but not much to
comment on.*

then pe.

Ms/4

The Mulroneys had their first sit-down dinner at Stornoway on Saturday. They invited us, and we were the only diplomatic representatives there. No effort was spared to make the evening a stylish one - it was black tie and long dress, the food was superb, and a pianist played popular music in the background («We need some class round here» said our host). The company was mixed - some Conservative politicians (the Michael Wilsons - he looking more and more like a Minister of Finance-designate), the Peter Blaikies (another likely future minister), the Thomsons, (a retiring MP for Calgary), some businessmen (Mr R Johnson, the American head of Nabisco and Mr Van Hoven, the Treasurer of Hanna Mining from Cleveland) and some press (Richard Doyle, former editor of the Globe and Mail and Bruce Phillips of CTV) - about 24 all told.

2. Brian Mulroney would clearly like, with Mila's help, to be seen as a sophisticated, elegant man of the world. But the veneer is thin, and every so often it cracks, and the Irish political street-fighter comes through. Particularly now when John Turner is mentioned. Then his teeth positively chatter. He claims (as he has in public) that Turner had made a hash of things in the past ten days and that it would be all downhill from now on. He told me that he had told Peter Carrington that the present government were «a bunch of socialists» and that Turner was «the Enoch Powell of Canada». I am not surprised that Carrington told me guardedly on the telephone that he had not been impressed by Mulroney. Mulroney got quite carried away talking about Turner to Shirley at dinner, becoming almost paranoid about him and saying desperately «He is just an ordinary man like us». He made the valid comment that it was not much use Turner talking about «a great renewal» when he was saddled with no-good ministers like Oellet, Serge Joyal and Herb Gray. What he said he really wanted was a televised face-to-face debate with Turner in which he proposed himself to speak half in English and half in hard, fast, colloquial French with no translator. That would, he thought, settle Turner's hash and show everyone that Turner's French was pretty poor. Bruce Phillips naturally encouraged this but Shirley asked him whether such a face-to-face debate would really be a good idea and he seemed shaken (under his blustering exterior he is surprisingly lacking in confidence). Mulroney tells you, in platform terms, what he thinks. He doesn't ask questions. And he isn't interested in anything but politics.

.../3.

CONFIDENTIAL



PR17

5
PRS
2

10264353

FCO 82/1444

Return by (29/09/2016 14:22:15)

CONFIDENTIAL

2.



3. He was at pains to emphasise to Shirley (as he did to me at our first meeting two years ago) that he hated the IRA and had chosen not to go to Ireland for his honeymoon because of them. Clearly he thinks that we must regard him with suspicion as an Irish Canadian. He told Shirley that many of his present constituents in Nova Scotia are Scots, so he has banned the playing of «When Irish Eyes are Smiling» and tends now to talk about «we Scots!».
4. Though it was very kind of them to invite us, we remain a little puzzled about why we were asked - Mulroney does not, I think, do things without a purpose. A photographer circulated and took a good many shots of us with the Mulroneys so I hope these are not going to be used to demonstrate his devotion to the mother country.
5. Mila Mulroney is still very personable, but both of us formed the impression that under the pressures of the job, her charm is tending to become a bit less spontaneous, which is sad. What is nice is the obvious devotion of Mulroney to her and of both of them to their three delightful small children.

*Yours ever,
John*

Moran

cc.
Heads of Consular Posts
Chancery, Washington

CONFIDENTIAL