

Amc 020/2.	
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INDEX	ation Taken
	NA5/10

Mr MacLennan
 Thank you. Now must be
 Mr Budd is writing to Mr Powell
 who knows the letter is coming

Mr David Thomas

From: D R MacLennan, NAD

Date: 25 September 1984

PS/PUS PUS

now see
Am 026/40 (10)

Re R see NA 1/10

VISIT TO THE UK BY CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER

- A
36. 1. The High Commissioner in Ottawa has asked the PUS whether we can secure from No 10 agreement that Sir D Day should issue a definite invitation to the new Canadian Prime Minister to visit Britain.
- B
Amc 027/10 (13) 2. On 6 August, No 10 reported that the Prime Minister found "unimaginative" our suggestion that inviting the Canadian Prime Minister to visit Britain would be a good way of improving Anglo/Canadian relations. Nevertheless since both Ottawa and the Department considered that this was the single most effective gesture we could make, we recommended that the Prime Minister's congratulatory message to Mr Mulroney should include an invitation to pay an early visit to Britain. The Secretary of State agreed, though Private Office's subsequent letter to No 10 put the recommendation less strongly than the Department's original draft.
- C
Amc 011/4 (17) 3. In the event, the Prime Minister's message to Mr Mulroney sent by No 10 said only that the Prime Minister hoped to have the opportunity of meeting Mr Mulroney soon - either in the UK or Canada. The reasons for the change were not made clear.
- D
Amc 011/4 (26) 4. All this was spelled out to Sir D Day in a letter of 11 September from Mr Marshall.
- E
Amc 011/4 (27) 5. All this was spelled out to Sir D Day in a letter of 11 September from Mr Marshall.
- F
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5. At this stage we appear to have two possible options. One is to go back to No 10, as Sir D Day asks. We could point out that when the High Commissioner sees Mr Mulroney, he may well be asked to explain what is behind the Prime Minister's reference to the possibility of seeing Mr Mulroney either in Canada or Britain. So far as a visit to Canada is concerned, he could say that for the moment Mrs Thatcher has no plans to go, but that she particularly enjoyed her visit last year and would hope to be able to return at some stage. On the question of a visit to the UK by Mr Mulroney, we hope Sir D Day could be authorised to say that the Prime Minister is looking forward to an opportunity to meet him; that she would like to welcome him to London at a mutually convenient date; that she hopes it can be soon and that precise arrangements could be settled in due course. We could point out that Mr Mulroney has already accepted an invitation to visit the US, and that invitations from other European countries, particularly France, may be in the pipeline.

6. The alternative would be to tell the High Commissioner that the present formula is the best we can extract from No 10, and suggest that when he sees Mr Mulroney, he should take the Prime Minister's message at its face value, and without issuing a categorical invitation, use his discretion to enquire whether there is any prospect of Mr Mulroney visiting London in the near future. If the reaction were positive we would have grounds on which to go back to No 10 with a recommendation for a formal invitation to be issued.

7. It would help in deciding which course to take if we knew more clearly what the Prime Minister's own attitude was.

/ 11

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It is possible that she may have in mind going to Canada on her way to or from the United States next year. Mr Powell's letter of 6 August (Flag B) indicates that Mrs Thatcher thought the new Canadian Prime Minister would have better things to do than visit Britain, (but assumed at that stage that Mr Turner was going to win.) It could be that the Prime Minister has other reasons for being against any early Canadian visit to the UK. Or it may simply be that the importance which the post (and NAD) attach to this gesture has not come across strongly enough to No 10. Perhaps the next step is for someone to have a word with Mr Powell at No 10.



D R MacLennan
North America Department

I agree with Mr Day that if we are as serious as we profess ourselves to be about thickening up Anglo-Canadian relations we should strike while the (now) iron is hot and get in an invitation to Mr

Maloney

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ENCOURAGE SUCH A VISIT.

GOVERNMENT. I WOULD WELCOME AND

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R & R B
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FROM: N H Marshall, NAD

DATE: 9 August 1984

Mr Budd
Private Office

RELATIONS WITH CANADA

Arc 027/10
13

- A
1. You have sent us Mr Powell's letter of 6 August in which the Prime Minister is recorded as taking the view that our recommendation that the new Canadian Prime Minister should be invited to visit Britain is "unimaginative", and calling for more ideas.
 2. This is somewhat tiresome. The fact is that both we and the Canadians have been working on "practical steps which could be taken to improve Anglo/Canadian relations" for the past two years. These were briefly summarised in paragraph three of the draft outward letter to No 10 as submitted. I do not think that the Prime Minister could have been dismissive of your letter of 3 August if it had included that material. Was there a particular reason for its exclusion of which we should be aware? We shall of course be consulting Sir D Day and putting on our own thinking caps, although I am bound to say that I do not have high expectations that anyone will come up with anything dramatic.

B 31
/as
C 12
27/10

N H Marshall

9 August 1984

N H Marshall
North America Department

Mr Marshall

We spoke. I have written again to No. 10 - see below - to set the record straight.

CR Budd

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21/8

(27)
(28)

Amc 020/2

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10 AUG 1984		
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Mr Marshall,
NAD

From: Mr Derek Thomas
Date: 7 August 1984

cc Sir W Harding
Mr David Thomas

UK/CANADA

mc 027/10

(13)

I was interested to see Mr Powell's letter to Mr Budd of 6 August about points arising from Mr John Turner's recent visit. In particular, I notice that the Prime Minister has asked for thought to be given to practical steps which could be taken to improve Anglo/Canadian relations. It might help if, with due diffidence, I offer one or two thoughts on this, for whatever worth they may be.

2. The desirability of taking steps to improve Anglo/Canadian relations has been a long running theme, certainly going back to my own time in Ottawa (1967-69) and before. In my experience, it has always proved intractable, partly because of Canadian sensibilities and partly because of British irritation with Canadian attitudes and policies.

3. The most effective single step we could take to improve the Canadian attitude towards Britain would be to take the Canadian Government (and by extension Canadian interests) more seriously. There are two ways of doing this. One is by encouraging such things as high profile visits in both directions (political as well as royal), sending messages of the kind we are habitually sending to our closest partners, devising appropriate ceremonial occasions to mark particular events (the last one I remember was the centenary of Canadian Dominion Status). Have we, I wonder, ever thought of putting up a statue to Mackenzie King or Lester Pearson in London? Things of that kind would be a way of massaging the Canadian soul and would be likely to produce a certain degree of public relations dividend.

4. The second way is, in some respects, more difficult but probably more effective. It is to consult the Canadians more regularly and in greater depth on matters of mutual concern, taking them into our confidence as British policies develop and showing readiness to work together on matters where we have common or adjoining interests (such as US extra-territorial activities and involvements in the Caribbean). Since Canadian views are seldom quite in line with ours and since Canadian sensibilities make it difficult for them to adjust their points

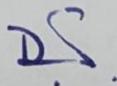
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- 2 -

of view, the process is fairly unrewarding and, everytime I have seen it given a new start, it tends to die a fairly early death. But nevertheless I believe that it is the best way of getting across to Canadian Governments that we are anxious to improve the relationship. Provided we do not expect too much to come from it, I think it is worth the effort. / I am sure the Prime Minister is right /5. in her evident instinct that Mr Turner's return to the Canadian political scene offers a new opportunity. He gained an outstanding reputation as Chairman of the IMF/IBRD Interim Committee when he was Finance Minister in the seventies. His international credentials are therefore good. The Americans can certainly be expected to make a new effort to mend their fences once he returns to power. I am sure it is important that we should do so too.



Derek Thomas

7 August 1984

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