

0 2 7 2 1 9

*MKH  
23.4.81*

PRIVY COUNCIL  
OFFICE

CONFIDENTIAL - CEO

APR 23 1 56 PM '81

23 April 1981

MEMORANDUM  
CONSEIL PRIVE

F.P.R.O. B.R.F.P.

Michael Kirby

APR 24 1981

MEMORANDUM TO MR. PITFIELD

POSSIBLE PRE-SUMMIT MEETING OF  
THE PRIME MINISTER WITH MRS. THATCHER

I understand you have certain doubts about the advisability of the Prime Minister seeing Mrs. Thatcher when he is in Europe in May. We have reflected further on the issue and wish to reiterate the recommendation made in Mr. MacGuigan's memorandum of April 9th.

One argument why the visit should not take place is that it might undermine the UK Government's commitment on the Constitution, given last July. That commitment was for passage, not a timetable. The principle of passage will now be effectively decided by the Supreme Court. Our problem will be to obtain Westminster's action quickly. We have increasingly been dealing with Mr. Pym, rather than Mrs. Thatcher or Lord Carrington, and he has little reason to support rapid passage. It might prove very helpful, even indispensable, to discuss this issue with Mrs. Thatcher and to obtain a new commitment from her.

I recognise the possible sensitivity of a meeting in London before the Supreme Court has rendered its judgment, but this should be limited by the obvious parallels with visits to other Summit leaders, and by a careful public statement of the nature of the discussions.

The other points made in the earlier memorandum - about the advantages of a meeting for other reasons related to the Summit and our general relationship - still stand.



s.19(1)

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL - CEO

As you know, the Prime Minister has now decided to go to Rome on the evening of Monday, May 18, with a view to having a tête-à-tête with Mr. Forlani in the morning and then lunch. This plan should permit dinner that same day in London, without too much strain. (The delegation would gain an hour going to London.) The loss of an additional day in Ottawa would thus be obviated.



D.M.M.