

Q. As you like.

P.M: It's your time. I don't mind. I can talk about philosophy and smoking tobacco.....

Q. Mr. Trudeau: Following your talks today with Mrs. Gandhi, do you think that India and Canada can do anything to reconcile opinion between Britain and the Black African nations on this issue at Singapore?

P.M: I don't know. I'm sure that Indian representatives and the Canadian ones will attempt just that, to, I repeat, find accommodation between divergent views. I think all countries, even those who disagree with Britain's policy, recognize that it is the right of Britain to define her own defence and strategic needs. They all point out, as I did myself as early as last summer, that in defining their needs in a military sense the Government of Britain should also take into consideration the effect of any such decision on their friends and neighbours, particularly those in the Commonwealth.

Q. Can you give us any sort of report of your conversation this morning with Mrs. Gandhi?

P.M: Yes, I could briefly run through the various subjects we dealt with. We talked of course about the Commonwealth and the Singapore Conference. We talked about the role of India in Asia and the way in which they saw relationships between the great powers in this area developing, the question of security of the Indian Ocean, the question of India's relations with her neighbours, Pakistan and China. We talked a little bit about Vietnam, about the problems there, and we went on also to talk about bilateral questions, particularly those which arise for both our countries as a result of the possible entry of Britain into the Common Market, the effects this would have on our trade with this block and ways in which we could help each other to make sure that the effects of such an entry were as little unfavourable to us as possible. I can't think offhand of any other subject we dealt with. Bilateral trade; we did touch on some technical questions of trade between Canada and India. We looked at assistance programs and didn't have much to discuss there.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, what are the topics on which you are in full agreement with the Indian Prime Minister, and what are the topics on which you disagree?

P.M: It might be easier to look for topics of disagreement because, I think, there is a great measure of agreement between our countries. So, looking for areas of disagreement.....I wish I could find some that made good headlines. I don't suppose there are any areas of disagreement between our countries. In the topics I just mentioned, we exchanged points of view. For instance, I was interested in knowing the assessment of the Indian Government of shall we say, any possible threat to her security by various countries. But, it is not for me to agree or disagree. It was a matter of me getting information from the Prime Minister. I wouldn't be able to say that I subscribed to every one of India's policies whether in the internal or external fields. But I really can't say that we had a heated argument about anything.

Q. You met with Mr. Heath last night. Could you give us an idea of the subjects you discussed and as much detail as you think fit?

P.M: Well, one comment I made was that I thought the food was very good. I went to the British High Commission not suspecting I would eat so well. Apart from that, we just continued the discussions we had at our previous meetings in Ottawa.

Q. I wonder whether you agree with India's assessment about the Soviet threat in the Indian Ocean, about the existence of the Soviet threat?

P.M: What is the Indian assessment?

Q. India's assessment is perhaps that it is not as real as it is sought to be made out. That is what we gather here.

P.M: Well, Canada of course is so far removed from this area of action that I cannot pretend that we have any expert opinion on it. My reflections on that threat are that if it exists, it is certainly not immediate and, in the longer run, I must confess that I can't get too excited about it, because it doesn't seem to me that that would be in any kind of a major war a telling factor in the destinies of mankind. In other words, if there is a real major war between the major powers, I suspect that atom bombs will be going off in other parts of the world and not too many will be wasted on the waves of the Indian Ocean. In this sense, I don't think that from the Canadian point of view, we can be very much concerned with what happens in the Indian Ocean. We don't have the responsibility of a world power, and therefore, we don't have to make these hard