

From: SMART Archive  
Sent: 3/6/2017 5:15:34 PM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: Canada Adopts 'America First' Foreign Policy

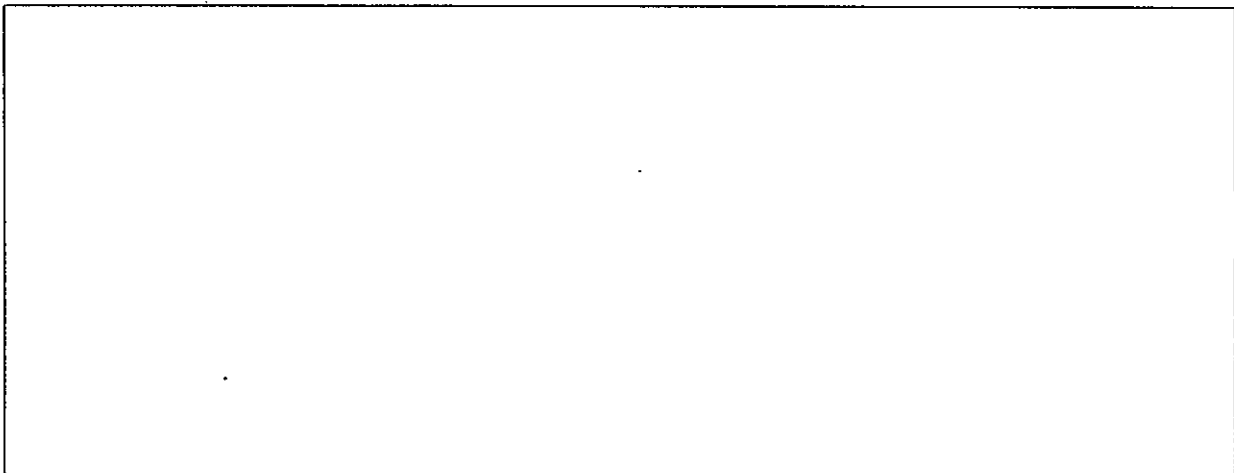
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RELEASE IN PART  
1.4(B),B1



MRN: 17 OTTAWA 81  
Date/DTG: Mar 06, 2017 / 062214Z MAR 17  
From: AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, ETRD, CA  
Captions: NOFORN  
Reference: A) 17 OTTAWA 3  
B) 17 OTTAWA 45  
C) 17 OTTAWA 37  
D) 17 WINNIPEG 2  
Pass Line: AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PASS TO AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
AMEMBASSY VILNIUS PASS TO AMEMBASSY MINSK  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PASS TO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
Subject: Canada Adopts 'America First' Foreign Policy

1.-(S/NF) Key Points:



1.4(B)  
B1

**Prioritizing U.S. Relations, ASAP**

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
B1

3. (SBU) In Cabinet, a series of personnel moves has upgraded Canada's approach to the bilateral relationship. PM Trudeau promoted former Minister of International Trade Chrystia Freeland to Foreign Minister in large part because of her strong U.S. contacts, many developed before she entered politics (Ref A). Her mandate letter from the PM listed her number one priority as maintaining "constructive relations" with the United States. Trudeau then added to her responsibilities for U.S. affairs, giving her responsibility for U.S.-Canada trade, an unprecedented move in the Canadian context. Shortly thereafter, the government added a third Parliamentary Secretary at Global Affairs Canada (GAC), giving Andrew Leslie responsibility for relations with the United States. A retired Lieutenant General elected to parliament in October 2015, Leslie has extensive ties to U.S. military leaders from his tours in Afghanistan. PM Trudeau also elevated Transport Minister Marc Garneau – who also brings strong U.S. ties from a career as an astronaut and nine years in Houston – to head the Canada-U.S. Cabinet Committee. While PCO contacts say Garneau's reassignment had less to do with his leadership than with Freeland's hectic travel schedule, which often caused committee meetings to be delayed or cancelled, the committee is now meeting weekly – also unprecedented – even without a formal agenda, as ministers engage in freewheeling discussions of strategy and share information, in addition to making policy decisions.

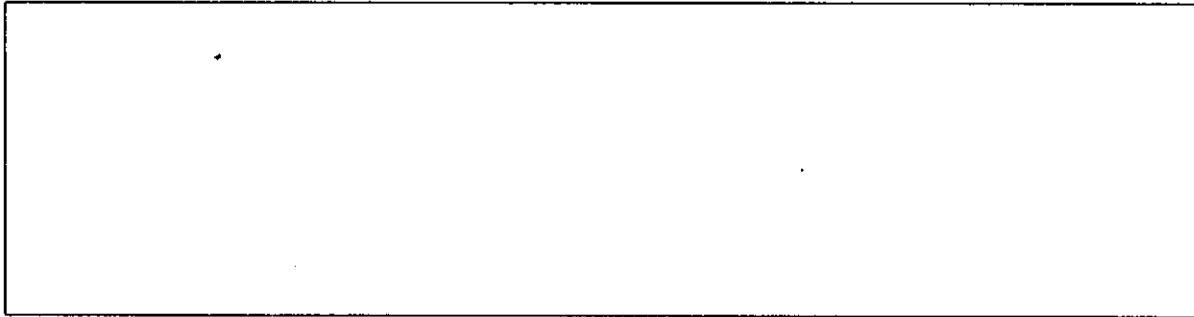
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**Expect Increased Engagement**

[Redacted]

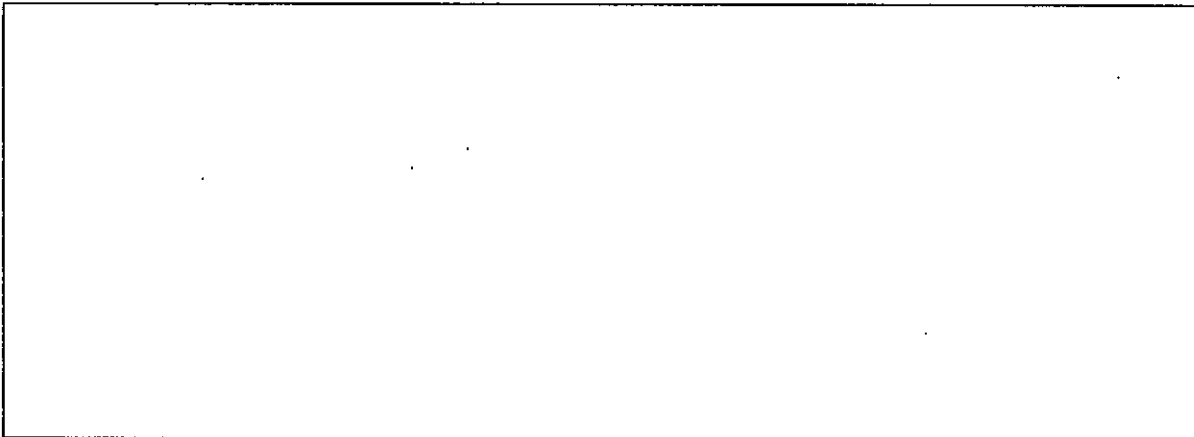
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Former PM Mulroney: Trudeau's "Trump Whisperer"



1.4(B)  
B1

Comment



Signature: Aubin

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Office: Political  
Agency: State

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