

MR. ROGERS, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1 Q. -- calls were placed?

2 A. Exactly. I mean, if a call like that had come  
3 through, Peter White or Stanley Hartt, who were the  
4 Chiefs of Staff in that period, would have talked to me.

5 Q. What was the position of the P.M.O. and the Prime  
6 Minister himself in relation to this project?

7 A. Well, everybody's look -- looks for malfeasance and  
8 evil doings whenever you mentioned that the P.M.O. came  
9 to a meeting, but it is very common that they came to  
10 meetings on major issues. It would be unthinkable that  
11 bureaucrats would deal all on their own on matters that  
12 high political import. And there's no doubt, this was a  
13 regionally important political matter. But the fact they  
14 come to meetings, and that they listen, and they ask  
15 questions, is very different than suggesting that they  
16 apply pressure or that they provide direction which they  
17 do not. And they very studiously do not.

18 In all the governments I have dealt with, and I've  
19 worked for five Prime Ministers, the activities or the  
20 manner in which the Prime Minister's Office represents  
21 itself is uniformly the same, it is: "Never say no." I  
22 mean, you do not want to author an opinion that the Prime  
23 Minister said "No" when he has had no involvement, or  
24 there's been no basis for suggesting that that was his  
25 position. You can say, "Maybe." You can say,