

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

ADVANCE COPIES

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NAD  
CCD  
NEWS DEPT  
PS  
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PS/MR LUCE  
PS/MR DAY  
PS/MR URE  
MR FREELAND LEGAL ADVISER K206A  
DR PAPPY

RC

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 040800Z

FM OTTAWA 032207Z DEC 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 686 OF 3 DECEMBER

ADVANCE COPY

1. AS YOU WILL KNOW MR TRUDEAU IS SPEAKING TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE TELEPHONE TOMORROW AT 3.00PM LONDON TIME.
2. WHEN HE GAVE ME LUNCH TODAY HE SHOWED NO SIGN OF EUPHORIA ABOUT YESTERDAY'S VOTE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND SAID HE HAD SEEN TOO MANY SLIPS BETWEEN CUP AND LIP TO FEEL HAPPY UNTIL THE CONSTITUTION HAD GONE THROUGH ALL ITS STAGES IN CANADA AND THE UK AND BEEN PROCLAIMED HERE. HE WAS ENORMOUSLY GRATEFUL TO MRS THATCHER FOR THE ROBUST AND COURAGEOUS LINE SHE HAD ALL ALONG TAKEN. THE MELBOURNE STATEMENT HAD PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PROVINCES. BUT HE STILL THINKS IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO HAVE IT PUT THROUGH IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME. IT BECAME CLEAR THAT HE WANTS THIS IN ORDER TO DEPRIVE MR LEVESQUE OF A WEAPON IN THE ALL-OUT BATTLE FOR THE FUTURE OF QUEBEC WHICH HE IS ABOUT TO LAUNCH WITH A SPEECH IN MONTREAL ON SUNDAY WEEK.
3. WHEN HE SPEAKS TO MRS THATCHER HE WILL STRESS THE DANGERS OF A DELAY AT WESTMINSTER WHICH MIGHT ALLOW QUEBEC AND THE INDIANS TO MANUFACTURE DIFFICULTIES. HE WILL ASK IF IT IS REALLY UNTHINKABLE THAT PASSAGE THROUGH BOTH HOUSES AT WESTMINSTER MIGHT BE COMPLETED BEFORE CHRISTMAS. I TOLD HIM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WORD I HAD VIA THE DEPARTMENT FROM THE LORD PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, THAT IT WOULD BE REASONABLE TO EXPECT A FIRST READING IN THE COMMONS THIS MONTH, BUT THAT IT WOULD I THOUGHT NOW BE QUITE IMPRACTICABLE FOR THE SECOND READING TO BE HELD BEFORE CHRISTMAS. I EXPECTED IT TO TAKE

THAT IT WOULD I THOUGHT NOW BE QUITE IMPRACTICABLE FOR THE SECOND READING TO BE HELD BEFORE CHRISTMAS. I EXPECTED IT TO TAKE PLACE SOME TIME AFTER THE HOUSE REASSEMBLED ON 18 JANUARY, WITH APPROPRIATE PRIORITY BEING GIVEN TO IT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE NORMAL PASSAGE THROUGH BOTH HOUSES WITHOUT UNAVOIDABLE DELAY. IT EMERGED THAT MR TRUDEAU WOULD LIKE IT BACK BEFORE 15 FEBRUARY, WHICH IS THE DATE HE HAS IN MIND FOR PROCLAMATION BY THE QUEEN IN PARLIAMENT IN OTTAWA. I SAID THAT SPEAKING PERSONALLY IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE BUT WAS EXREMELY TIGHT. I STRESSED THAT ANY PUBLIC TALK OF DEADLINES OR COMMITMENTS OR ANY PUBLIC PRESSURE WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, TEND TO MAKE DOUBTERS MULISH AND MIGHT WELL MAKE PASSAGE SLOWER NOT FASTER. I WELCOMED YESTERDAY'S REMARKS BY MR CHRETIEN SAYING THAT NO DEADLINES WERE ENVISAGED. MR TRUDEAU PROFESSED NOT TO KNOW THAT MR CHRETIEN HAD SAID THIS.

4. MR TRUDEAU IS LIKELY TO RAISE ALSO ON THE TELEPHONE, AS HE DID WITH ME, THE QUESTIONS OF (A) WHETHER THE INITIATION OF COURT ACTION BY QUEBEC WOULD LEAD TO DELAY IN WESTMINSTER (I SAID THAT I HAD SEEN NO SUGGESTION THAT THIS WOULD BE THE CASE AND THAT MUCH WOULD PROBABLY DEPEND ON THE LINE THE CANADIAN GOVERMENT TOOK ON THIS) AND (B) WHETHER LEGAL ACTION BY INDIANS IN THE UK WOULD CREATE A PROBLEM (I SPOKE VERY GUARDEDLY AND EMPHASISED THE DIFFICULTY OF PREDICTING THE TIMING, OUTCOME AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE COURT ACTIONS BUT SAID THAT WE WERE STUDYING THIS AND AT PRESENT HOPED THAT THESE ACTIONS WOULD NOT RESULT IN DELAYS IN PARLIAMENT.)

5. MR TRUDEAU CONCLUDED THIS PART OF OUR DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT HE WOULD LIKE MRS THATCHER TO BE ALERTED TO THE FACT THAT HE WOULD PRESS HER STRONGLY FOR PASSAGE BEFORE CHRISTMAS BUT THAT IT WAS FOR HER TO DECIDE AND HE WOULD ACCEPT WHATEVER SHE DECIDED WITH A GOOD GRACE.

6. SUBSEQUENTLY WHEN DISCUSSING THE FUTURE COURSE OF CANADA/UK RELATIONS, MR TRUDEAU SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO A RESUMPTION OF THE PATTERN OF ANNUAL PRIME MINISTERIAL VISITS IN ONE DIRECTION OR THE OTHER AND WOULD DURING TOMORROW'S CONVERSATION INVITE MRS THATCHER TO PAY AN EARLY VISIT TO CANADA.

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