



Gouvernement du Québec  
Délégation générale  
Londres

2<sup>nd</sup> June 1981

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP  
Prime Minister  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

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Dear Mrs Thatcher,

As you will be aware, the Supreme Court of Canada is shortly expected to give its judgment on the Canadian Federal Government's proposals unilaterally to "patriate" and substantially amend the Canadian constitution despite the opposition of eight of the ten provincial governments and a majority of the Canadian people.

It seems to be widely believed in this country that the Supreme Court judgment will indicate a clear course of action for Westminster. However, this forthcoming judgment will deal exclusively with the legality in Canada of the federal government's proposals. Such a ruling will not change the constitutional responsibilities of the United Kingdom Parliament, as defined by the Statute of Westminster in 1931.

During the hearings before the Supreme Court, several significant arguments emerged which give a clearer insight into the nature of the current proposals and the way they are planned to be presented to Westminster. The more important of these are summarised in the enclosed Background Brief.

If there are any matters arising from the brief on which you would like additional information, I will do my best to provide it or to discuss the matter with you personally.

Yours sincerely,

Gilles Loiselle  
Agent-General for Quebec