



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

30 October 1981

Mr Raphael.

Thank you for your letter of 9 October. Your wealth of experience of Canada naturally makes your views on the constitutional problem of particular interest and it was kind of you to set them out fully.

As you say, Mr. Trudeau at the moment faces the opposition of eight out of ten Provinces. We shall have to see whether the talks he is having with the Provincial Premiers on 2 November produce the sort of compromise which could lead to a greater degree of provincial support for his proposals.

Though I have, as you point out, given Mr. Trudeau an indication of the degree of likely Parliamentary opposition to his constitutional package in this country, you will also know from the communique which Mr. Trudeau and I agreed after our Melbourne meeting that the British Government will introduce at Westminster the legislation which is duly requested and approved by the Canadian Parliament.

Both in your letter to me and to the Daily Telegraph you draw attention to the delicacy of the position of HM The Queen with regard to his constitutional problem. I need hardly assure you that this is something to which we are paying close attention as, I am sure, are the Canadian Federal Government.

Yours ever

Raphael

Sir Raphael Tuck.