

Canada

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PP OTTAWA

GRS 326

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FM FCO 101710Z JUL 81

TO PRIORITY OTTAWA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 244 OF 10 JULY

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MY TELEGRAM NUMBER 243 OF 9 JULY 1981
CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

1. REEVESHAGGAN CALLED AGAIN TODAY ON HYDE ON INSTRUCTION FROM PITFIELD. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WERE EXTREMELY WORRIED ABOUT THE PRESENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM AND THE PROVINCES. THEY FORESAW EVEN GREATER DIFFICULTIES IF THERE WAS ANY SIGNIFICANT GAP BETWEEN THE END OF THE PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS IN CANADA AND THE BEGINNING OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS.
2. IT ALSO EMERGED THAT THE CANADIANS WERE ANXIOUS THAT A CONTINUANCE OF DISTURBANCES IN BRITAIN COULD LEAD TO THE NEED FOR FURTHER LEGISLATION AND RESULT IN DELAY FOR THE CANADIAN BILL. FOR THESE REASONS, AND TO TRY AND AVOID THERE BEING TIME FOR THE PROVINCIAL REFERENDA TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS IS COMPLETE, MR TRUDEAU WILL DEFINITELY PRESS MRS THATCHER HARD TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER DURING THE SPILL-OVER.
3. HYDE SPOKE IN SIMILAR TERMS TO THOSE USED AT THE LAST MEETING. HE EMPHASISED THE DIFFICULTIES OF DEALING WITH THE QUESTION DURING THE SPILL-OVER. TO TRY TO RUSH MATTERS THROUGH DURING THIS LIMITED PERIOD, FOR WHICH OTHER BUSINESS WAS ALREADY COMMITTED, WOULD NOT GIVE THE CANADIAN BILL THE BEST CHANCE. SUCH AN ATTEMPT WOULD BE USED BY OPPOSITION ELEMENTS TO SPIN OUT THE SPILL-OVER PERIOD AND THUS DELAY THE OPENING OF THE NEW SESSION. THIS WOULD HAVE SERIOUS EFFECTS ON THE PARLIAMENTARY TIMETABLE. HE ALSO INDICATED TACTFULLY THAT IT MIGHT BE HARD TO GET MPS TO TREAT THE MATTER AS VERY URGENT BECAUSE OF

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UNGOVERNABILITY IN CANADA.

4. HYDE ENDED BY SAYING THAT MR TRUDEAU WAS OF COURSE AT LIBERTY TO PUT THIS TO MRS THATCHER: BUT HE COULD NOT HOLD OUT HOPE OF MINISTERS AGREEING TO ANY CHANGE OF THE PROCEDURE SET OUT IN MY TUR. THE MORE THIS WAS TREATED AS A NORMAL BILL IN PROCEDURAL TERMS RATHER THAN SOMETHING EXCEPTIONAL AND URGENT, THE BETTER ITS CHANCE OF AN EASY PASSAGE.

CARRINGTON

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