



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 October, 1981

Dear Bernard,

Thank you for the telegram you sent me about the Canadian Constitution while I was in Melbourne.

On your first point, I can assure you that I did indeed draw Mr. Trudeau's attention to concern in Parliament following the Supreme Court judgement. Since you sent your telegram, you may have seen the press guidance Mr. Trudeau and I agreed should be issued after our meeting on 5 October. This includes the point that I told Mr. Trudeau that some Members of Parliament were concerned at the proposal that they should be asked to approve a measure affecting Federal Provincial relations which did not have the approval of a substantial number of the Provincial Governments. The agreed guidance went on to quote my view that "concern would be strengthened by the Supreme Court ruling that it was not in accordance with Constitutional convention that such a measure should be enacted without Provincial consent, even though it left undefined the measure of consent required".

On your second point, you will have seen that Mr. Trudeau has recently met the Premier of British Columbia, Mr. Bennett, and is to meet the eight dissenting provincial premiers shortly. I am naturally not in a position to say how these discussions are progressing.

Yours ever

Margaret

Sir Bernard Braine, D.L., M.P.

LB