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Canadian High Commission



Haut Commissariat du Canada

May 11, 1981

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

My Dear Prime Minister

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the proposed Resolution of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada for a Joint Address to Her Majesty the Queen respecting the Constitution of Canada.

This proposed Resolution has not yet been adopted by the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, but it cannot be further amended. Under the terms of an Order adopted unanimously by all parties in the House of Commons on April 8, 1981, all amendments to the Resolution moved in the House of Commons were disposed of on April 23. Under the terms of an Order adopted by the Senate on April 15, all amendments to the Resolution moved in the Senate were disposed of on April 24.

Following reference cases before the Manitoba Court of Appeal, the Newfoundland Court of Appeal and the Quebec Court of Appeal, the opinions of those Courts on questions related to the constitutionality of the proposed Resolution were appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada. The Canadian Supreme Court has concluded its hearings and is now deliberating.

After the Supreme Court of Canada has rendered its decision, provision is made in the Orders of both Houses of the Parliament of Canada for two further days of debate on the Resolution. However, during this debate, no further amendments are permitted. At the end of the second day in each House, a vote on the proposed resolution will be taken. The enclosed copy of the proposed Resolution is, therefore, in its final form. I thought that it would be useful for you to have, at this time, a copy of the Resolution, as amended, so that you might have ample opportunity to study it prior to any Joint Address being forwarded to Her Majesty the Queen.

Should you desire any information respecting the Resolution or the judicial process in Canada, officers of the Canadian High Commission would be pleased to be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Casselman Wadds
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High Commissioner