

Le délégué général

3rd October 1980

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London SWl

Dear Prime Minister,

I have been instructed by my government to bring to your urgent attention the fact that it will oppose with every means at its command any attempt by the federal government of Canada to patriate the Constitution unilaterally.

We know at this time that this position, which is unanimously supported by all parties represented in the Quebec National Assembly, is also that of a majority of the governments of other Canadian provinces.

The Quebec government, and constitutional experts agree, considers that patriation, unless it comes as the result of a large consensus of the democratically elected governments of the Canadian provinces and of Ottawa, is wrong and most divisive since it strikes at the very basis of the federation and threatens the already fragile balance of power which exists in Canada.

May I therefore ask you, Madam Prime Minister, to take very carefully into consideration my government's view in this matter before taking any action.

I have the honour to be, Madam,

Yours sincerely,

The Agent General for Quebec,

GILLES LOISELLE

GL/HRG

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