

FEDERAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM Wayne Clifford
Executive Director
International Affairs

OUR FILE REFERENCE

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TO Oryssia J. Lennie
Acting Deputy Minister

DATE June 27, 1980

TELEPHONE

SUBJECT PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S VISIT WITH PRIME
MINISTER THATCHER OF GREAT BRITAIN

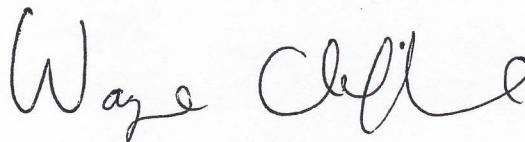
Mr. Herb Pickering phoned my office yesterday at the request of Mrs. Jean Wadds, Canada's High Commissioner to Great Britain. Mrs. Wadds met with Mrs. Thatcher following the visit to London on Thursday, June 26 by Prime Minister Trudeau. According to Mr. Pickering, Mrs. Wadds has asked that Dr. Meekison and the Premier be informed of the issues raised during Mr. Trudeau's working luncheon with Mrs. Thatcher. Mrs. Wadds indicated that Mrs. Thatcher found Mr. Trudeau to be neurotic and paranoid regarding patriation. Mrs. Thatcher thought that Mr. Trudeau's paranoia was based on his fear that the provinces, especially those with Conservative governments, were opposed to the patriation of the constitution. Although Mr. Trudeau expressed optimism that patriation could be achieved, he predicted that there would be violent provincial opposition to such action. He indicated that the federal position in this matter was the correct one; hence, he will have to act unilaterally. Mrs. Thatcher indicated that she could understand Mr. Trudeau's position and that she would ultimately have to accept his request for patriation, in view of the fact that he is the Head of the Government of Canada. (Incidentally, in the attached Southam News article in the June 26 Edmonton Journal, it was reported that "Mrs. Thatcher indicated that her government would act on the advice of the Canadian prime minister".)

It is Mr. Pickering's understanding that Mrs. Thatcher perceives the provinces, especially those with Tory administrations, as the big bad ogres; Mr. Trudeau would likely have been influential in shaping this perception. It was perceived that the other provinces and not Quebec were now the problem.

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Mrs. Thatcher was concerned about possible public embarrassment for her government should a federal-provincial dispute in this matter be carried into London. She emphasized that her government does not want to be drawn into such a federal-provincial quarrel; accordingly Mrs. Thatcher expressed the hope that the inter-governmental disputes remain internal within Canada. It can also be noted that Mrs. Wadds, who was originally appointed as High Commissioner to London by former Prime Minister Clark, felt that she has been retained in London to soften the blow to the provinces in the event of the patriation of the constitution.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne Clifford". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Wayne Clifford

WC/lw
Attachment

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