

CAS 640
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM OTTAWA 102120Z NOV 81
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 631 OF 10 NOVEMBER

MS

CONSTITUTION

1. MR LEVESQUE'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY YESTERDAY CONTAINED THE EXPECTED VITRIOL AND BIASED REHEARSAL OF THE HISTORY OF QUEBEC'S ATTEMPTS TO ASSERT ITS POSITION IN CONFEDERATION. HE DID NOT HAVE MUCH TO REPORT IN THE WAY OF CONCRETE DECISIONS. HE SAID THAT THE FOLLOWING IMMEDIATE MEASURES WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN:

(A) QUEBEC WOULD BOYCOTT ALL FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL AND INTER-PROVINCIAL MEETINGS EXCEPT THOSE ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL MATTERS:

(B) THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE CALLED UPON TO REAFFIRM THE EXISTENCE OF A DISTINCT NATIONAL SOCIETY IN QUEBEC:

(C) EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO INFORM THOSE IN OTHER COUNTRIES SYMPATHETIC TO THE QUEBEC CAUSE OF THE WAY THAT QUEBEC HAD BEEN TREATED AND MEASURES TAKEN TO COUNTERACT THE "BRAIN WASHING" OF QUEBECERS BY FEDERAL PROPAGANDA:

(D) QUEBEC WOULD CONTINUE TO EXPLAIN ITS POSITION TO BRITISH PARLIAMENTARIANS.

THESE MEASURES, PARTICULARLY (A) ABOVE PRESUMABLY CONSTITUTE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT TO KEEP THE PARTI QUEBECOIS RADICALS IN LINE. THERE IS TO BE A CABINET MEETING DURING THE WEEK AND A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OF THE PARTY AT THE WEEKEND. THERE IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT MR LEVESQUE WILL BE OBLIGED TO AGREE TO FURTHER ACTION, EG A REFERENCE TO THE SUPREME COURT OR A REFERENDUM.

2. IN DEALING WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT FURTHER DEMANDS BE MADE TO NEGOTIATE WITH OTTAWA, MR LEVESQUE WAS EXTREMELY NEGATIVE, LAYING DOWN THE UNLIKELY PRE-CONDITION THAT OTTAWA RENOUNCE EVERYTHING IN THE AGREEMENT WHICH DETRACTED FROM THE PROVINCE'S RIGHTS. THE DEGREE OF BITTERNESS WHICH MR LEVESQUE HAS FELT TOWARDS MR TRUDEAU PARTICULARLY AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GENERALLY HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED CONSIDERABLY AS A RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE - NOT LEAST BECAUSE WITH THE BENEFIT OF HINDSIGHT IT IS PLAIN THAT HE PLAYED HIS CARDS BADLY BY AGREEING QUICKLY TO MR TRUDEAU'S COMPROMISE WHEN HE KNEW IT TO BE UNACCEPTABLE TO SOME AT LEAST OF HIS COLLEAGUES. MR BLAKENEY HAS SPELT OUT IN A TV INTERVIEW THAT MR LEVESQUE HAD NO CAUSE WHATSOEVER FOR

CONFIDENTIAL

(FEELING

FEELING BETRAYED: ALL THE SIGNATORIES OF THE APRIL ACCORD HAD SPECIFICALLY AGREED THAT IT WAS A DEVICE TO RAILROAD THE TRUDEAU EXPRESS AND BRING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. ONCE THERE THE SIGNATORIES WOULD BE FREE TO PURSUE THEIR SEPARATE INTERESTS. WHATEVER THE BACKGROUND, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT MR LEVESQUE WILL BE DISPOSED OR FEEL ABLE POLITICALLY TO ENGAGE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN NEGOTIATION IN THE SHORT TERM.

3. MR RYAN, LEADER OF THE QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY WILL SPEAK TODAY IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. ON SUNDAY EVENING HE MADE SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR COMPROMISE ON THE THREE PARTS OF THE AGREEMENT MR LEVESQUE HAD OBJECTED TO. MR CHRETIEN HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THESE SUGGESTIONS. WE MAY THEREFORE BE SEEING THE BEGINNINGS OF A RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED FRONT BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL LIBERAL PARTIES WHICH COULD BE OF CONCERN TO MR LEVESQUE: IT WAS THIS COMBINATION WHICH DEFEATED HIM IN THE 1980 REFERENDUM.

4. I SAW BOTH MR LEVESQUE AND MR RYAN AT THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. MR LEVESQUE SEEMED IF ANYTHING SAD ABOUT THE SITUATION, ALMOST CRESTFALLEN. HE WAS PERFECTLY FRIENDLY TO ME. HE SAID THAT THE QUEBEC AGENT-GENERAL HAD BEEN KEPT BACK IN QUEBEC TO DISCUSS WHAT TO DO NEXT. HE DID NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE EXPECTED WESTMINSTER TO DO ANYTHING OTHER THAN TO PASS THE LEGISLATION. CLEARLY TOO HE DID NOT EXPECT MR CLARK TO DO MUCH IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN OTTAWA. MR RYAN WAS EXTREMELY PREOCCUPIED AS WELL HE MIGHT BE WITH HIS POLITICAL NECK ON THE BLOCK. HE IS BEING PRESSURISED BY HIS CAUCUS TO DISSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM THE LEVESQUE GOVERNMENT AND COME OUT MORE STRONGLY IN FAVOUR OF THE OTTAWA AGREEMENT.

5. ON THE ABORIGINAL FRONT, FOLLOWING A LUNCHTIME MEETING YESTERDAY BETWEEN INUIT LEADERS AND MR TRUDEAU, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE FORMER HAD BEEN GIVEN 48 HOURS TO PRODUCE SUITABLE WORDING FOR A POSSIBLE REINSTATED CLAUSE ON THE ENTRENCHMENT OF ABORIGINAL RIGHTS.

DAVIES

[COPIES SENT NO 10 DOWNING ST]

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION LIMITED

NAD

CCD

P & CD

PCCU

PARLIAMENTARY UNIT

NEWS D

INFORMATION D

PS

PS/LPS

PS/MR LUCE

PS/MR HURD

PS/LORD TREFARNE

PS/PUS

SIR E YOUDE

MR DAY

MR URE

LORD N G LENNOX

CABINET OFFICE

COPIES TO:

SIR I SINCLAIR

MR FREELAND

DR PARRY

} LEGAL ADVS.

PS/CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER

PS/LORD CHANCELLOR HOUSE OF LORDS

PS/LORD PRESIDENT

MR H STEEL, LAW OFFICERS' DEPT

PS/HOME SECRETARY

LORD MORAN

C/O HQS/MISSION SECTION P.O. BOX 14

2

CONFIDENTIAL