

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 185

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FM OTTAWA 261551Z NOV 81
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 666 OF 26 NOVEMBER
SAVING MONTREAL

CONSTITUTION

1. NOW THAT WE DRAW CLOSE TO COMPLETION OF THE CANADIAN PHASE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY BE CONSIDERING WHETHER TO RECOMMEND SOME FORM OF CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR TRUDEAU.

2. I BELIEVE THAT WE WOULD HAVE LITTLE TO GAIN AND SOMETHING TO LOSE BY SUCH A COURSE. WITH QUEBEC STILL BITTERLY OPPOSED TO THE RESOLUTION, THE AGREEMENT REMAINS ESSENTIALLY THE CREATION OF ANGLOPHONE CANADA. QUEBECERS WOULD CERTAINLY RESENT A BRITISH MESSAGE WHICH COULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO OUR COMMERCIAL INTERESTS THERE AND MANY OTHER CANADIANS ARE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE EFFECT OF QUEBEC'S ISOLATION ON THE FUTURE OF CANADA. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES A MESSAGE AT THIS STAGE WOULD I BELIEVE BE INAPPROPRIATE. ALTHOUGH IT COULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON ANGLO-CANADIAN RELATIONS AT THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL, IN MY VIEW THIS

WOULD BE SLIGHT AND TRANSIENT AND NOT SUCH AS TO OUTWEIGH THE RISKS. MOREOVER, HOWEVER RELIEVED AT THE OUTCOME, MR TRUDEAU HIMSELF MUST HAVE MIXED FEELINGS AT THE EXTENT TO WHICH HE WAS FORCED TO COMPROMISE TO ACHIEVE HIS CHARTER OF RIGHTS.

MORAN

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SIR I SINCLAIR }
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DR PARRY }

PS/CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER

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