



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 December 1981

Dear Michael,

Prime Minister

⊕

2 letters.

Canada

Agree to phone conversation with  
Mr Trudeau to-morrow?

Ans  
3/11

As I mentioned on the telephone yesterday, the Canadian High Commission have asked us whether it would be convenient for the Canadian Prime Minister to telephone the Prime Minister on completion of the parliamentary process over the constitution in Canada. A convenient time for Mr Trudeau would be during tomorrow afternoon, Friday 4 December, perhaps between 3 and 4 pm. Would the Prime Minister be prepared to take the call: and, if so, would this be a convenient time?

L.A.  
RR 4/12

This telephone call would give the Prime Minister the opportunity of speaking to Mr Trudeau in suitably warm terms about his achievement in producing an agreement which is now blessed by nine out of the ten Provinces and which has just achieved an overwhelming majority (246 to 124 - see attached telegram no 684 from Ottawa) in the Canadian House of Commons. She will doubtless wish to add that the much more favourable situation in Canada will naturally facilitate matters in Parliament here, though the Indian issue seems certain to be raised.

Lord Carrington considers that such a telephone conversation would make it unnecessary for the Prime Minister to send Mr Trudeau any formal message of congratulation. I attach a copy of Ottawa telegram no 666 in which Lord Moran recommends against such a message. Lord Carrington agrees that the Quebec angle and Mr Trudeau's own apparent attitude towards the compromise package would make a formal written message inadvisable. Lord Carrington has himself, in response to a message from the Canadian Minister for External Affairs, Mr MacGuigan, sent his congratulations (a copy of both messages is attached).

Unless you wish to deal directly with the Canadian High Commission over the call, we shall make the necessary arrangements as soon as we hear from you.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Heyhoe in the Lord President's Office.

yours ever  
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)

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10 Downing Street



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p.a.

A 5/12

*Dear Michael,*

Canadian Constitution

Further to my earlier letter today, the Canadian High Commission have now told us of some of the points Mr Trudeau would make if he telephones the Prime Minister tomorrow afternoon. He will probably first inform her officially of the date when the Resolution will be delivered to London (ie probably Monday morning), and that it will be delivered immediately to the Palace by the Governor General's Secretary Mr Esmond Butler.

Mr Trudeau will also probably thank Mrs Thatcher for her patience and consideration during the past 15 months; he will explain what opposition remains in Canada to his proposals (Indians and Quebec) and what view he takes of that opposition. He will warn her that the Canadian media are about to descend on London en masse to concentrate on any possible difficulties here, and that there would therefore be advantage in completing the UK processes as quickly as possible.

Mr Trudeau will invite the Prime Minister to visit Canada and will mention that the last British Prime Minister to do so was Mr Callaghan in 1976. Lord Carrington has already accepted in principle an invitation from Mr MacGuigan to visit Canada next year, but with no commitment yet as to dates (he may go there en route to or from the United Nations General Assembly in September). It was already in our minds to propose that the Prime Minister should visit Canada in 1983. The Prime Minister may therefore wish to accept Mr Trudeau's invitation but say that she will have to examine her programme before she can consider dates.

*Yours ever*  
*Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

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