

bc Mr Berthoud ✓

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

3 December 1981

*See file  
MS**Dear Adam,*

You asked on the telephone yesterday for advice on how to reply to Ottawa telegram No 677 of 1 December in which Lord Moran asks for a line to take with Mr Trudeau, when he sees him at lunch today, about the probable timing and passage of the Canada Bill.

A The Lord President would be content for Lord Moran, if asked, to make the following points:

- (a) That it would be reasonable to expect First Reading of the Bill before Christmas.
- /// (b) That Second Reading would take place after Parliament returns from the Christmas Recess on 18 January, but it is impossible at this stage to say exactly when.
- /// (c) That the Bill will be given the appropriate priority to achieve its normal passage through both Houses without avoidable delay.
- (d) That any pressure will inevitably make it take longer.
- (e) That any suggestion of a particular deadline or commitment would be positively counter-productive. B

I am copying this letter to David Wright and David Hilary in the Cabinet Office and to Murdo Maclean, Chief Whip's Office.

*Your own  
D. Heyhoe*

D C R HEYHOE  
Private Secretary

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