CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

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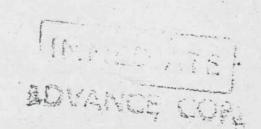
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TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 687 OF 3 DECEMBER



## MIFT: CONSTITUTION

1. AT MY LUNCHEON WITH MR TRUDEAU TODAY HE GAVE ME AN INDICATION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR THE QUEEN TO PROCLAIM THE NEW CONSTITUTION. MR TRUDEAU HAS IN MIND THE DATE OF 15 FEBRUARY FOR THIS (THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE PRESENT CANADIAN FLAG) AND KIRBY WHO HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SIR PHILIP MOORE SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD ME THAT HER MAJESTY HAD TENTATIVELY AGREED TO COME TO CANADA FROM 13-15 FEBRUARY. WHEN I SAID THAT I DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE SAFE TO ASSUME THAT THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT WOULD HAVE PASSED LEGISLATION IN TIME TO MEET SUCH A DEADLINE MR TRUDEAU SAID THAT IF THAT WERE THE CASE AND THE QUEEN WERE NOT THEN ABLE TO COME UNTIL SAY APRIL OR MAY, HE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THE CONSTITUTION PROCLAIMED WITHOUT HER MAJESTY'S PRESENCE SINCE TIME WAS OF THE ESSENCE ALTHOUGH HE WAS CLEARLY RELUCTANT TO CONTEMPLATE SUCH AN EYENTUALITY.

2. AT THE LUNCHEON KIRBY SAID THAT HE WONDERED WHETHER KNOWLEDGE
THAT HER MAJESTY WAS PLANNING A VISIT TO CANADA FOR THE OCCASION ON
15 FEBRUARY MIGHT ACT AS AN INCENTIVE FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO
DEAL WITH THE MATTER EXPEDITIOUSLY. I SAID AT ONCE THAT I WAS SURE
THAT HMG WOULD BE VERY STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY SUGGESTION THAT HER
MAJESTY'S PLANS SHOULD BE USED TO PUT PRESSURE TO ACCELERATE
CONSIDERATION IN EITHER HOUSE, THOUGH CLEARLY IT WOULD BE USEFUL
FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND THE PALACE TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH PRIVATELY
ABOUT ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH COULD NOT VERY WELL BE MADE
AT THE LAST MOMENT OF TRUDEAU ACCEPTED THIS. KIRBY SUBSEQUENTLY

ABOUT ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH COULD NOT VERY WELL BE MADE AT THE LAST MOMENT. MR TRUDEAU ACCEPTED THIS. KIRDY SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD ME THAT HE HAD BEEN PROMPTED TO SPECULATE IN THIS BY A REPORT FROM CANADA HOUSE (REEVES HAGGAN) THAT HER MAJESTY'S TENTATIVE PLANS TO VISIT CANADA WERE LEAKING AS A RESULT OF PRINCE PHILIP'S CANCELLATION OF A TRIP WHICH CLASHED WITH THE DATES IN QUESTION.

Paragraph 3 delekt and dosed, 40 years, under Foi Exemption.

Mayland 20 June 2013

MORAN

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