



Canada

File AH
cc FW

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

5 May 1982

Dear Michael,

PROCLAMATION OF THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

Thank you for your letter of 22 April 1982.

I have shown the Prime Minister this short account of the Lord Chancellor's visit to Ottawa for the proclamation of the new Canadian Constitution, and she has taken note of it.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Brian Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

Yours sincerely,

Anne Blenkinsop.

Michael Collon Esq.,
Lord Chancellor's Office.

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

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HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

22nd April, 1982

Clive Whitmore Esq.,
Principal Private Secretary to
The Right Honourable
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street.

Prime Minister.

To see.

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Ref: 85/362/01

Dear Clive,

Proclamation of the Canadian Constitution

Not quite right!

As you know, Her Majesty The Queen went to Ottawa last week to proclaim the new Canadian Constitution on Saturday 17th April. The Prime Minister was to have gone to represent HMG, but because of the Falklands crisis the Lord Chancellor went in her place, and I accompanied him.

The Lord Chancellor had talks with Mr. Trudeau and with Mr. MacGuigan, the Minister of External Affairs, and you will by now have seen telegrams from Lord Moran, the High Commissioner, giving accounts of these talks. I have nothing to add to those accounts, except perhaps to say how agreeably surprised I was at the warmth of the reception accorded us by Mr. MacGuigan, and at the very whole-hearted support he gave HMG over the Falklands crisis.

The Canadians were plainly disappointed that the Prime Minister was unable to come, though they fully understood the reason. I think the Lord Chancellor was an excellent choice as substitute. He has been to Canada many times before, and is well known to Canadians both personally and by reputation. They were extremely hospitable, and the entertainment they laid on was very well done, particularly when one considers that the Canada Act received the Royal Assent only on 29th March. The officials of the High Commission and of the Department of External Affairs between them made our visit extremely enjoyable, and Lord and Lady Moran, with whom we stayed, were kindness itself. I think the many talks which the Lord Chancellor had with many Canadians, from the Prime Minister downwards, did something to cement the friendship between our two countries.

I am sending copies of this letter to Brian Fall (FCO) and to Miss Sarginson in the British High Commission at Ottawa.

Yours ever,

Richard

M.H. Collon



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