

CONFIDENTIAL

021767  
MDHIAN 4190

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM OTTAWA  
TO DESKBY100900Z FCO  
TELNO 371  
OF 100600Z JUNE 90  
INFO ROUTINE MONTREAL TORONTO EDMONTON VANCOUVER WASHINGTON

MY TEL NO 370: CANADIAN CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

SUMMARY:

1. AGREEMENT, BUT NEWFOUNDLAND NOT YET COMMITTED . PROSPECTS THERE, AND TO A MUCH LESSER EXTENT IN MANITOBA, REMAIN UNCERTAIN.

DETAIL

2. FIRST MINISTERS CONCLUDED THEIR DISCUSSIONS TODAY HAVING ACHIEVED WHAT NINE OUT OF TEN PROVINCIAL PREMIERS BELIEVED WAS THE BEST POSSIBLE DEAL IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE AGREEMENT (ALONG THE LINES OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF MY TUR) WAS SUFFICIENT TO BRING MANITOBA'S GARY FILMON ON BOARD (WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE PROVINCIAL LIBERAL AND NDP LEADERS) AND TO KEEP BOURASSA ON BOARD, THEREBY ISOLATING WELLS OF NEWFOUNDLAND. WELLS HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAS SIGNED THE AGREEMENT HE CANNOT ENDORSE IT. HE WILL CONSULT HIS NEWFOUNDLAND CAUCUS TOMORROW, AND WILL THEN DECIDE WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH A PROVINCIAL REFERENDUM, OR WHETHER HE WILL INSTEAD INTRODUCE THE AGREEMENT INTO HIS PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE AND ALLOW A FREE VOTE.

3. A REFERENDUM IN NEWFOUNDLAND WOULD TAKE TWO WEEKS, AND LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN MANITOBA TO RATIFY THE ACCORD COULD TAKE UP TO TEN DAYS. THE SITUATION IS THUS DISTINCTLY MESSY. NO ONE CAN BE CERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT NEWFOUNDLAND WOULD VOTE IN A REFERENDUM IN FAVOUR OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH THEIR OWN PREMIER HAS SAID THAT HE CANNOT ENDORSE, NOR WHAT THE RESULT OF A FREE VOTE IN THAT LEGISLATURE MIGHT BE. IN THE MEANTIME, THE MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE PROCESS CALLS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS, WHICH WILL BE TAKING PLACE CONCURRENTLY WITH THE DEBATE IN NEWFOUNDLAND. THIS COINCIDENCE OF TIMING WILL ENABLE THE APPONENTS OF THE ACCORD IN BOTH PROVINCES TO FEED UPON ONE ANOTHER. AND THERE WILL ON ADDITION BE ROOM FOR A MAXIMUM OF MISCHIEF MAKING BY SEPARISTS IN QUEBEC, WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE DEAL FAIL, AND HAVE BEEN CONSPIRING IN THEIR PUBLIC ATTACKS ON BOURASSA.

4. IN PRACTISE THEREFORE, SEVEN DAYS OF DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATIONS HAVE FALLEN DISAPPOINTINGLY SHORT OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH SEEMED WITHIN REACH ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON. THE ACTION NOW LEAVES THE FEDERAL STAGE, AND WE MUST WAIT TO SEE WHETHER THE FINAL PIECES CAN BE PUT TOGETHER IN MANITOBA (WHERE THE PROSPECTS ARE HOPEFUL, GIVEN THE AGREEMENT HERE OF THE THREE PARTY LEADERS) AND IN NEWFOUNDLAND, WHERE THE PICTURE REMAINS AS MURKY AS EVER. MUCH STILL DEPENDS ON THE

PAGE 1  
CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

021767  
MDHIAN 4190

ABILITY OF ANGLOPHONE SUPPORTERS OF MEECH, PERHAPS PARTICULARLY IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES, TO CONVINCE THE PEOPLE AND THE LEGISLATURE OF NEWFOUNDLAND THAT THEIR PREMIER HAS GOT HIMSELF OUT ON THE WRONG LIMB. ONCE THINGS BECOME A LITTLE CLEARER, I WILL BE OFFERING FURTHER THOUGHTS ON HOW THINGS ARE LIKELY TO GO IN MANITOBA AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, NEWFOUNDLAND.

5. THE FAT LADY HAS NOT YET SUNG, BUT MULRONEY HAS TAKEN THINGS AS FAR AS HE CAN. I AM SURE THAT A SHORT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER -PERHAPS NOT MUCH MORE THAN CONGRATULATIONS AND WE ARE KEEPING OUR FINGERS CROSSED - WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED. A PHONE CALL FROM NO 10 TO MULRONEY'S OFFICE, OR A POSTSCRIPT TO A MESSAGE AFTER MRS THATCHER'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION, WOULD DO THE JOB NICELY.

FALL

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

470

MAIN 470

FCO/WHITEHALL  
NAD [-]

NNNN

PAGE 2  
CONFIDENTIAL