

With respect to the second largest French-speaking community in the world mentioned in the Embassy's note, the Department does not need to recall that it forms an integral part of Canada. The only authority in Canada that France may recognize when an international meeting is involved is that of the Canadian Government. It is also the only authority to which the French Embassy and French diplomats are accredited.

In this regard, the Department is surprised at the publication of the press release which in its view is not in conformity with diplomatic practices. The Department reminds the Embassy that it is to those Canadian authorities empowered to hear them that it must address such communications.

Considering the press release issued by the Embassy, the Department informs the Embassy that it is also releasing to the press the text of this note verbale.

Ottawa, December 5, 1980