

APPENDIX «B»

December 11, 1975

Mr. Sylvain Cloutier
Deputy Minister of Transport
Transport Canada Building
Place de Ville
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N5

Dear Mr. Cloutier,

I refer to our letter of December 10, 1975, concerning two air traffic controllers who were suspended at the Dorval Air Traffic Control Centre.

Because of the extreme urgency of the case, I visited the Control Centre last night in order to meet with the complainants and their superiors. As agreed with Mr. Walter McLeish, I was accompanied by Mr. C. G. Foy of your Department.

In addition to Messrs. M. Pitre and L. Desmarais, I met with both anglophone and francophone controllers. While consulting with these persons, I realized that finding a «technical» solution which everyone could respect would be impossible unless steps were taken rapidly to improve the psychological atmosphere of the Control Centre.

Although the question of ground-to-ground communications can, to a certain extent, be linked to that of air-ground communications (a problem I discussed in my letter of July 30, 1975), I believe they must be separated for the moment.

The discussions I had in Montreal also convinced me that your Department, while always giving overriding priority to air safety, will have to find, as quickly as possible, ways to allow the use of the French language in ground-to-ground communications between controllers who wish to use French. While I recognize that your Department's undeniable duty, from a legal and moral standpoint, is to protect the public if air safety appears to be in jeopardy, I find it abnormal, in principle, to oblige French-speaking controllers to speak to each other in English in the province of Quebec.

Without wishing for the moment to make formal recommendations which might take me into an area where I do not have your competence, I would like to propose for