

return to responsible government. This draft has been prepared by the Governor in consultation with the Commonwealth Relations Office.

I have etc.

M. H. WERSHOF  
for the High Commissioner

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*Extraits d'un télégramme du haut commissaire en Grande-Bretagne  
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Extracts from Telegram from High Commissioner in Great Britain  
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 1006

London, July 2, 1948

SECRET. Your telegram No. 959 of June 23rd, Newfoundland.

Accompanied by Wershof, I have attended three meetings at the Commonwealth Relations Office. Gordon-Walker (Parliamentary Under-Secretary) presided and the Governor of Newfoundland was present, also Machtig and Walsh (Commissioner of Justice of Newfoundland). I gave the first meeting the contents of your telegram No. 959 in order that the present views of the Canadian Government should be known. The agenda divided naturally into two parts:

- (a) What procedure should follow a satisfactory vote for confederation, and
- (b) What happens if there is a very slight majority for confederation.

In this telegram I shall deal with hypothesis (a) and in a separate telegram with hypothesis (b). Everything in this telegram is premised on there being a satisfactory vote for confederation. These meetings were of an exploratory character, designed to elucidate the position with a view to submission on the United Kingdom side to Ministers for a final decision.

2. The first point which the Commonwealth Relations Office and the Governor ask you to consider is the desirability of the three Governments agreeing, prior to the referendum, on a tentative legal program to be followed in the event of there being a satisfactory majority vote for confederation, in order that this program may be announced promptly after the vote. It would, they urge, be unfortunate if there were, subsequent to the vote, a long period of public uncertainty as to what is to happen and when. They hope therefore that the Canadian Government will consent to join with them in trying to reach agreement now on a tentative timetable and procedure. Such an agreement would not in any way bind the heads of the Canadian Government if the vote were unsatisfactory, nor would it limit the powers of the Canadian Parliament in respect of the substantive terms of union.

3. The Governor has already decided whom he would ask to be on the Newfoundland delegation which would go to Ottawa to discuss and settle with the Canadian Government the full terms and arrangements. The anti-confederation people would be represented on it but most of its members (5 out of 7) would be pro-confederation. The Commonwealth Relations Office and the Governor hope