

DESPATCH 441

St. John's, August 26, 1948

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my telegram No. 161 of August 5th[†] regarding the personnel of the delegation appointed to visit Ottawa.

2. In my despatch No. 386 of August 3rd[†] I reported Mr. Crosbie's open letter in which he advised his supporters to remember the urgent necessity of uniting and working together for the good of Newfoundland. I enclose copies of a clipping from the St. John's *Daily News* of August 7th[†] which contains a copy of a letter which Mr. Crosbie wrote to the Governor on August 3rd and in which he agreed to serve on the delegation. In a covering letter to the editor of the *Daily News* Mr. Crosbie explains that when he agreed to serve on the delegation he requested permission to have his letter of acceptance made public and he asks the editor of the *Daily News* to publish his letter of acceptance for the information of the people of Newfoundland.

3. Mr. Crosbie's letter explains that before agreeing to serve on the delegation he conferred with the committees of the Economic Union party in St. John's and also sent the following telegram to the party's committees throughout Newfoundland:

I have been requested by Governor to serve on delegation which will negotiate terms with Canada. In order to safeguard interests of well over seventy thousand Newfoundlanders who supported Responsible Government I feel compelled to accept but with proviso that if I regard terms as unsound or unfair I shall so advise people Newfoundland reserving right withdraw on these grounds from delegation. Would welcome your viewpoint. Reply collect.

Mr. Crosbie said that the replies received to this telegram concurred with the feeling of the St. John's committees that it was in the best interests of Newfoundland for him to agree to serve on the delegation.

4. Mr. Crosbie concluded his letter with the following paragraphs:

As Your Excellency pointed out . . . the most urgent necessity for us all is to act in what will be the best interests of the people of Newfoundland so that we will be able to work and live together as a united people, whatever the future may hold for us.

I will therefore accept Your Excellency's request that I serve on this Delegation going to Ottawa. I must, however, point out that I reserve the right to object if I regard the terms as unsound or unfair to this Island.

It will be noted that, whereas in his telegram to his committees Mr. Crosbie said that he felt compelled to agree to serve on the condition that he reserve the right to withdraw from the delegation if he regarded the terms as unsound or unfair, in his letter of August 3rd to the Governor he limited himself to saying that he reserves the right to object if he regards the terms as unsound or unfair.

5. I believe there is some feeling on the West Coast that that area of the country ought to have been represented on the delegation, but the only comment bearing directly on this point that I have seen in print is that contained in an editorial which appeared in the Corner Brook *Western Star* of August 20th in