

TELEGRAM 1201

London, July 26, 1948

IMMEDIATE. SECRET. Following for Pearson from Robertson, Begins: Your telegrams No. 1158[†] and No. 1160 of July 22nd⁸⁰ re Newfoundland crossed my telegram No. 1179 of July 22nd.[†]

On the question of legal procedure I have had a further talk with Machtig. The objections of the United Kingdom authorities to the plan desired by Canada (i.e. a United Kingdom Bill with terms of union annexed) are growing stronger. Machtig assumes that the Canadian Government fully appreciates the fact that there will have to be agreement between the Canadian Government and the United Kingdom as to the kind of Bill to be introduced in the United Kingdom Parliament. This is not a question on which the United Kingdom Government would necessarily feel bound to acquiesce in a Canadian Government preference. (Equally, of course, Canadian consent is necessary to any United Kingdom Bill involving Canada).

2. At the risk of seeming to labour the obvious, I wish to point out the danger of serious embarrassment if the Canadian Government were to make any public statement on its legal plan before full agreement has been reached with the United Kingdom Government. Ends.

647.

10300-E-40

*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au haut commissaire
en Grande-Bretagne*

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

TELEGRAM 1179

Ottawa, July 26, 1948

IMMEDIATE. SECRET. Following for Robertson from Pearson, Begins: Your telegram No. 1201 regarding Newfoundland just received.

It is understood of course here that agreement with the United Kingdom on procedure is required and no statement on this aspect of the question will be made without consultation with the United Kingdom. It should of course also be understood in London that the difficulties in reaching agreement on legal procedure may have an important bearing on decision here whether to proceed with Confederation or not on the basis of the majority secured in the plebiscite.

648.

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*Mémorandum du ministère des Affaires extérieures
Memorandum by Department of External Affairs*

SECRET

Ottawa, July 27, 1948

⁸⁰Voir le document 628.

⁸⁰See Document 628.