

or accept any proposition. Our National Energy Board has to make recommendation on their plans before that Board, before the Government can act.

We are expecting those reports in the first half of this year.

MEMBER OF THE PRESS: Mr. Prime Minister, we were told that, after reading your speech, Mr. Carter asked about it; and then you and he discussed it privately for about ten minutes.

Could you tell us the kind of response you got from him?

Did he express concern over the possible secession of Quebec?

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU: He expressed interest in my views on the situation in Canada in general, and Quebec in particular, but he was not particularly volunteering any American point of view beyond a very general statement that he has made publicly.

Naturally, the Americans are looking to the North for a Country with stability and duration. I think they are properly sensitive about interfering into our internal political problems, and that seems to characterize the attitude of the President.

It is quite clear that, if asked a preference, the Administration would prefer to see a strong, united Canada.