

TELEGRAM 138

St. John's, July 23, 1948

IMPORTANT. 1. This morning's *Daily News* carries a Canadian Press news story datelined Ottawa, July 22nd, which reads as follows:

"Capital observers studying the results of the Newfoundland referendum said tonight that Canada may not welcome the Island Colony into Confederation because of the closeness of the vote. Latest reports received here show the vote for Responsible Government to be slightly ahead of the ballot for Confederation. Observers recalled Prime Minister King's statement of some months ago that Canada would welcome Newfoundland as the tenth Province only if Newfoundlanders indicated clearly beyond all possibility of misunderstanding that Confederation was their choice. The Prime Minister's Office said tonight that Mr. King is unlikely to make a statement of any kind until the referendum vote is complete. That probably will be next week-end."

The same newspaper also carries a Reuters story datelined Ottawa, July 22nd, which reads:

"Canada is ready to accept Newfoundland into the Dominion only if a large majority of the islanders vote for federation in today's final referendum a Canadian Government spokesman said tonight. If the referendum produced only a small majority for federation the Canadian Government might decide union should not be consummated the spokesman added. In the event of a large vote for federation negotiations would begin immediately and last some months. If Canada decided the majority was insufficient she would inform the British Government and Newfoundland would automatically return to Responsible Government he added."

Both the above news stories were read over news broadcasts at noon today and one broadcast also reported that "another message from Ottawa" asks what Canada will do and goes on to say that two authoritative statements regarding the Canadian attitude toward Confederation have been made the first being the Prime Minister's statement referred to in paragraph one above and the second being your statement in Parliament on June 19th when you said "if the Government of Newfoundland having consulted the population wishes Confederation to be consummated I think we would not go behind that declaration to examine to what extent they were justified in making such a representation." This was the only part of your statement quoted by the broadcast.

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*Mémoire du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

Ottawa, July 23, 1948

In telephone conversation, Mr. Bridle intimated to Mr. MacKay at 4:00 o'clock this afternoon that the returns to that time were: