

TRANSLATION

November 28, 1994

Mr. Bernard Landry
Deputy Premier and Minister of
International Affairs, Immigration and
Cultural Communities
525 boul. René Lévesque Est
Quebec City, Que.
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Dear Mr. Landry,

Thank you for your letter of November 23 concerning the speech by Mr. Matthew Coon-Come, Grand Chief of the Quebec Cree, to a conference organized by the American Association of Quebec Studies, last week in Washington.

Mr. Coon-Come was invited by the American Association of Quebec Studies, as were your colleague, Mrs. Rita Dionne-Marsolais, and the Canadian Ambassador to Washington, Mr. Raymond Chrétien. Mr. Coon-Come sent the text of his speech to the press on the evening of November 17 and, in the same news release, to the Embassy. At no time did he ask the Embassy to comment on his speech.

Immediately after Mr. Coon-Come's speech, representatives of Hydro-Quebec and the Quebec Government who were present at the conference responded in detail to his remarks. Mrs. Dionne-Marsolais did the same in her speech that evening. You must agree that the public and the press therefore had sufficient information to form an intelligent opinion on the matter.

Mr. Landry, in your letter reason is drowned in a flood of emotion. Surely I do not have to remind you, who, like me, are a minister and as such a defender of the democratic values of our society, that Canadian embassies do not interfere and try to tell Canadians what points of view they should express at university conferences. I assume that the Quebec delegations abroad, which fall under your responsibility, follow the same rule.