" IF THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION DID NOT AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES ON A MATTER FALLING WITHIN THE EXCLUSIVE DOMESTIC COMPETENCE OF THE PROVINCES, THE DELEGATION WOULD ABSTAIN." THIS FORMULA DOES NOT RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OUTLINED ABOVE. IT DOES NOT SATISFACTORILY REFLECT THE EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA IN THE REALM OF FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. IT IS THEREFORE MY DUTY TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT, AT THE CONFERENCE, THE DELEGATION WILL NONETHELESS HAVE TO BE GUIDED BY CANADA'S FOREIGN POLICY. IN PARTICULAR, THE AD HOC ARRANGEMENT WOULD NOT PREVENT THE DELEGATION FROM VOTING ON QUESTIONS RELATED TO SUCH MATTERS AD THE BUDGET AND STATUTES OF THE CONFERENCE.

YOU ALSO REQUEST THAT IT BE AGREED THAT THE MINISTER OF THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT MAY SPEAK "IN THE NAME OF QUEBEC". THESE WORDS WERE IN FACT USED IN THE AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS AGREED BETWEEN US FOR EARLIER CONFERENCES. YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 27 ACCEPTED A TEXT, ON THE EXPRESSION OF PROVINCIAL POINTS OF VIEW, WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE THIS PHRASEOLOGY. HOWEVER, THAT TEXT DID RECOGNIZE THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT MINISTER'S RIGHT TO SPEAK ON ANY MATTER WITHIN QUEBEC'S CONSTITUTIONAL COMPETENCE. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT, IN SUCH CASES, THIS MINISTER WILL SPEAK "IN THE NAME OF QUEBEC" SINCE HE WILL THEN PUT FORWARD PROVINCIAL EXPERIENCE AND POINTS OF VIEW. IT IS JUST AS EVIDENT THAT, FROM AN INTERNATIONAL STANDPOINT, HE WILL SPEAK AS A MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION. THERE WOULD THUS BE NO QUESTION OF RECOGNIZING FOR QUEBEC OR HER REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CANADIAN DELEGATION AN INTERNATIONAL STATUS SEPARATE FROM THAT OF CANADA. RATHER, IT IS FORESEEN THAT CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONFERENCE WILL INCLUDE STATE- MENTS BY PROVINCIAL MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION, DERIVED FROM THEIR PROVINCE'S EXPERIENCE AND INTERESTS. ON THAT BASIS, I ACCEPT THE ADDITION OF THE WORDS "IN THE NAME OF QUEBEC" TO THE RELEVANT PARAGRAPH OF OUR ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NIAMEY CONFERENCE.

SINCE THIS LETTER CONSTITUTES A POSITIVE REPLY TO THE TWO AMENDMENTS