

External Affairs

Quebec, though bound by present treaties, could withdraw from them according to the rules of international law. It would respect the agreement on the St. Lawrence Seaway and would become a full partner (with Canada and the United States) in the International Joint Commission. It would respect its responsibilities in NATO and NORAD, and would ask to be admitted to the United Nations.

Community Association

Quebec would negotiate with the rest of Canada a treaty of community association. It would be between sovereign nations and would bind them in a manner and for a term to be determined. It would define areas of common activity and establish common goals. It would set the rules and create institutions for the Quebec-Canada community, and agree on methods of financing it.

Areas of Common Action

Neither Quebec nor Canada would install customs barriers at common borders. They would establish tariff protection jointly, taking into account the short- and long-term interests of each.

Monetary Union

The Canadian dollar would remain the common currency. Capital would be circulated freely but each party would be able to establish its own investment codes or financial regulations.

The Free Movement of People

There would be no regular police controls at

common borders and no passports would be required for movement between Quebec and Canada.

Areas of Mutual Understanding

The two parties would agree on certain goals and would adopt complementary laws in such areas as transportation and inland shipping, the management of public carriers (e.g., Air Canada and Canadian National) and defence.

Community Institutions

The number and nature of community institutions would be negotiated.

Legal Equality

The disparities in population and wealth might cause some difficulties in negotiations. In some areas there would have to be parity in association, otherwise the smaller party would be at the mercy of the other. However, all things would not be subject to double vetoes. Certain institutions (the monetary authority, for example) could have a large measure of autonomy and in special cases the predominant interest of one of the parties could be recognized. Canada, for example, could control the production and marketing of wheat and Quebec the production and marketing of asbestos. There would be some flexibility.

Basic Agencies

The Quebec government proposes four basic community agencies: a Community Council, a Commission of Experts, a Court of Justice, and a Monetary Authority.

Reactions to the Quebec White Paper

Pierre Trudeau

Pierre Trudeau said the paper was "essentially a tactical document to get the people of Quebec to give a 'Yes' vote in the Referendum without frightening them. It's the old thing of having your cake and eating it too. That's done by saying in the document that a 'Yes' vote is for a mandate to obtain sovereignty and association and that one will not be obtained without the other." The paper described the benefits of economic union with Canada, but not what would happen if independence did not include such economic links, said Mr. Trudeau.

Joe Clark

Conservative leader Joe Clark said the Quebec government's paper proposed "an option that was incompatible with the continuation of [Canada's] federation . . . From our point of view on the side of the Federal Government, we have already begun a significant renewal of Canadian federalism . . . We are going to have to continue to demonstrate as the Federal Government that federalism means change."

