

11. The following subjects or aspects of the arrangements, which were dealt with in some detail in the exchange of correspondence, require additional comment.

M. BERTRAND'S FOUR "PRINCIPLES"

12. In his telegram of March 10, that is, in the final stages of negotiations, the Prime Minister of Quebec disclosed for the first time four "fundamental principles" on which, he said, Quebec could not give way. In his reply of March 12, M. Trudeau, without making any reference to these four "principles", put forward new proposals on certain details of two specific points raised by M. Bertrand. These dealt with the matter of the vote and the possibility for the Quebec representative on the Canadian delegation to speak "in the name of Quebec". Late in the afternoon that day, M. Bertrand accepted this final offer from M. Trudeau but asserted that the federal government had accepted his "fundamental principles". Nothing of the kind had happened. In fact, nothing in M. Trudeau's telegrams of March 12 and 13 would allow anyone to contend that the Government of Canada had agreed to accept such conditions.

13. It needs to be emphasized that, if M. Bertrand's "principles" had been accepted as they stood, this would have had the effect of seriously undermining the international personality of the Canadian state.

1. "Quebec's presence and activity must be adequately identified."

As regards the identification of Quebec's presence at Niamey, the terms of the final arrangements with Quebec effectively ensured that Quebec's participation within the Canadian delegation would be adequately identified. This was a simple matter of protocol. This does not, in any way, detract from the unity and integrity of the delegation.

2. "Quebec must be able to speak in its own name and enter into commitments of its own in matters within its competence."

Even if Quebec could "speak in its name" at Niamey, nothing in the arrangements gave the province authority to contract international obligations in its own name, unless specifically authorized to do so by the Government of Canada. Because some of the subjects which were to have been discussed at Niamey are, in Canada,