

T R A N S L A T I O N

(INCOMING TELEGRAM)

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU
PRIME MINISTER, GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
OTTAWA, ONTARIO

MARCH 10, 1970

MY DEAR PRIME MINISTER:

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 7 REGARDING QUEBEC'S
ROLE IN CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE FORTHCOMING NIAMEY
CONFERENCE AND IN THE AGENCY FOR CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERA-
TION. I HAVE STUDIED THIS LETTER AND ALL THE RELEVANT DOCUMENTS
WITH MY CABINET COLLEAGUES.

WE WERE SORRY TO NOTE THAT AN OBVIOUS DISAGREEMENT PERSISTS
ON A NUMBER OF BASIC POINTS, DESPITE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE
LASTED SEVERAL WEEKS.

THUS, YOUR MOST RECENT PROPOSALS REGARDING THE CANADIAN
DELEGATION'S VOTE CLEARLY DIVERGE FROM THE SPIRIT OF THE
FORMULA ALREADY AGREED UPON BETWEEN US. THIS SAME FORMULA
HAD, HOWEVER, PROVED SATISFACTORY FOR FOUR MEETINGS OF THE
CONFERENCE OF EDUCATION MINISTERS AND THE FIRST NIAMEY CONFER-
ENCE LAST YEAR. THAT IS WHY WE HAD ADOPTED IT ONCE MORE, WORD
FOR WORD, WHILE TAKING CARE TO ENSURE THAT IT IN NO WAY PREVENTED
THE CANADIAN DELEGATION FROM REGISTERING ITS VOTE ON MATTERS
WITHIN FEDERAL COMPETENCE. THIS ADDITION, WHICH WE OURSELVES
SUGGESTED, WAS DESIGNED TO ALLOW FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT
MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MIGHT ARISE IN
CONNECTION WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AGENCY. BUT, YOUR
NEW PROPOSAL MEANS, IN EFFECT, THAT THE CANADIAN DELEGATION,
LED BY A FEDERAL MINISTER, COULD VOTE ON ANY MATTER, EVEN
THOSE QUESTIONS WITHIN OUR STRICT COMPETENCE, AND EVEN IF QUEBEC