

PAGE TWO FCO-109 UNCLAS

AM SENDING YOU IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM)EMPOWER THE PERSONS NAMED TO SIGN THE CONVENTION IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA.(INCIDENTALLY AS YOU WILL APPRECIATE, THERE ARE NO/NO RESTRICTIONS ON THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL AS TO THE PERSONS THAT MAY BE AUTHORIZED TO SIGN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON BEHALF OF CANADA.)

3.THE REASONS THE GOVERNMENT TOOK THIS STEP ARE TWO-FOLD. FIRST,WE BELIEVE THAT SIGNATURE BY PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS COULD IN FACT BE A CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE MOVE,SO LONG AS THAT SIGNATURE WAS MADE IN THE NAME OF CANADA AS A WHOLE.IT WAS FELT THAT THE FOUNDING OF AN INTERNATIONAL FRANCOPHONE AGENCY WAS A MATTER OF GREAT INTEREST TO ALL CANADIANS.THUS,ONE OFFICIAL EACH FROM MANITOBA,NEW BRUNSWICK,ONTARIO AND QUEBEC HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO SIGN ALONG WITH M PELLETTIER IF THE CONVENTION IS OPENED FOR SIGNATURE AT THE NIAMEY CONFERENCE. OUR SECOND REASON WAS THAT ONE PROVINCE WAS PROPOSING RATHER DIFFERENT PROCEDURES WHICH MIGHT HAVE GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT ITS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE CANADIAN DELEGATION WOULD BE SIGNING THE CONVENTION IN THE PROVINCES OWN NAME AND ON ITS OWN AUTHORITY.SINCE THE CONFERENCE IS ONE OF SOVEREIGN STATES AND THE AGENCY WOULD BE AN ORGANIZATION WHOSE MEMBERS ARE SOVEREIGN STATES,WE FELT STRONGLY THAT ANY SUCH ACTION MIGHT CARRY WITH IT IMPLICATIONS INCONSISTENT WITH AND HARMFUL TO CANADIAN UNITY.

4.WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL THAT MANITOBA,LIKE THE OTHER THREE PROVINCES REPRESENTED ON THE DELEGATION,HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS

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