

essential. For example, rather than have the first Provincial Constitution of Newfoundland and the first constituency boundaries put in the Instrument of Union, the Commonwealth Relations Office suggests that consideration be given to the idea that the Instrument should be confined to authorizing the Canadian Parliament to enact the first Provincial Constitution, etc.

...

15. In order that there may be a full opportunity for discussion between the two Governments, the United Kingdom Government are sending instructions to their High Commissioner in Ottawa to approach you on the above matters, and are arranging for Tait (who is head of the Department concerned in the Commonwealth Relations Office and has attended the discussions here) to fly to Ottawa early next week in order to assist Clutterbuck.

16. I am giving the Commonwealth Relations Office a copy of this telegram and you may therefore wish to give a copy to Clutterbuck.

614.

10300-E-40

*Le haut commissaire en Grande-Bretagne au secrétaire d'État
aux Affaires extérieures*

*High Commissioner in Great Britain to Secretary of State
for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 1008

London, July 2, 1948

SECRET. My telegram no. 1006, July 2nd, Newfoundland.

1. In this telegram I shall discuss hypothesis (b) — What happens if there is a very slight majority for confederation.

2. The Governor of Newfoundland and Commissioner of Justice said that in their view there is no chance of a big majority for confederation, certainly not more than three thousand (3,000) and very probably much less. The complete result of the voting will not be known for about one week after the voting, but the result of most of the votes will be known within 24 hours.

3. On the United Kingdom side, it has been made clear in the published despatch from the Secretary of State to the Governor of March 2nd⁶⁶ that "in the event of the vote being in favour of the confederation, means would be provided to enable the full terms and arrangements for the Constitution of Newfoundland as a Province of Canada to be discussed and settled between authorized representatives of Newfoundland and Canada." On the Canadian side the Prime Minister stated in his letter to the Governor of 29th October, 1947, that "should the people of Newfoundland indicate clearly and beyond all possibility of misunderstanding their will that Newfoundland should become a Province of Canada on the basis of the proposed arrangements, the Canadian Government, subject to the approval of Parliament, would for its part be prepared to take the necessary constitutional steps to make the union effective at the earliest practicable date."

4. In our discussions over the past few days we have considered in a provisional way the implications of these two statements. On the United Kingdom

⁶⁶Voir la pièce jointe, document 550.

⁶⁶See enclosure, Document 550.