

1 weeks ago when -- and I think not quite unjustifiably -- the
2 author said that the American's ignorance of Affairs Canadian
3 was insulting; and that their indifference to them was,
4 at times, really maddening. So, perhaps, it might be a bit
5 gratifying -- mutually gratifying -- for you to be here
6 today, and be in a small but, most certainly, very interested
7 group of foreign correspondents; and I would like you to--
8 kindly--give a little statement at the beginning, and then
9 every one of us may ask questions. The whole thing is
10 on the record--unless our guest will decide otherwise.

11 MINISTER LALONDE: Thank you very much, Mr. Acting
12 Chairman. I wish to thank you for your invitation and for
13 taking time to come and talk about Canadian affairs.

14 I am Minister of Federal/Provincial Relations
15 -- as has been indicated -- and, also, Minister responsible
16 for the Status of Women in Quebec -- in Canada -- and I
17 don't know whether there is any particular relationship
18 between the two.

19 MEMBER OF THE PRESS: Both are minorities!

20 MINISTER LALONDE: My appointment dates back
21 to last September. This was not a position that existed
22 in the Federal Government before; except between 1867 and
23 1870, the beginning of the Canadian Confederation.

24 My appointment had two purposes:

25 One was to try and coordinate in a more effective