

(C O P Y)

C 288123

LEGATION OF FRANCE IN CANADA

MOST URGENT.

No. 72.

Sir:

The Legation of France has noted the approach which the Right Honourable the Prime Minister was kind enough to make last night in order to inform the Legation that the occupation of the Islands of St. Pierre-Miquelon by dissident French naval forces has been accomplished without the participation and the knowledge of the Canadian Government.

The Legation of France is of the opinion that it is its duty to recall on this occasion that, under the insistence of the Canadian authorities, it had brought about the removal of the "VILLE D'YS" from the vicinity of St. Pierre-Miquelon, the presence of this warship having been considered likely to create unfortunate difficulties. The French colony thus being completely disarmed with a view to giving assurances to the Canadian Government, the latter had thus assumed the moral obligation not only of respecting the status quo of the Islands, but also of protecting them.

On the other hand, for several months the Legation of France have found an attitude of generous comprehension in its dealings with the Canadian authorities, for which the Legation wishes once more to express its appreciation. Thanks to this, it was possible to improve the difficult situation of the Islands,

particularly/

The Right Honourable

The Secretary of State for External Affairs,
Ottawa.