

TRANSLATION

MESSAGE

DATE	FILE/DOSSIER	SECURITY SECURITE
MAR12/70		

FM/DE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NO

PRECEDENCE

TO/A THE HONOURABLE JEAN-JACQUES BERTRAND

URGENT

PRIME MINISTER OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,

INFO QUEBEC, QUEBEC

REF

SUB/SUJ

MY DEAR PRIME MINISTER:

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR TELEGRAM OF MARCH 10 CONCERNING THE ROLE OF QUEBEC IN CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE FORTHCOMING NIAMEY CONFERENCE AND IN THE AGENCY FOR CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

YOUR TELEGRAM RAISES QUESTIONS OF VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE AND, FOR THAT REASON, I THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE TO REVIEW IT WITH MY CABINET COLLEAGUES. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE CONSIDERED IT WITH THE CARE AND SERIOUSNESS WHICH OUR RESPONSIBILITIES DICTATE.

THE ARRANGEMENTS RESPECTING THE PRESENCE OF QUEBEC IN THE CANADIAN DELEGATION AT NIAMEY MUST BE VIEWED IN THEIR PRECISE CONTEXT. THE CONFERENCE IS A MEETING OF COUNTRIES AIMED AT CONCLUDING A FORMAL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. THIS AGREEMENT WILL SET UP AN AGENCY WHICH WILL DEAL WITH NUMEROUS MATTERS -- SUCH AS ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION -- WHICH RELATE AS MUCH TO THE COMPETENCE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS THEY DO TO THAT OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

CANADA RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO THIS CONFERENCE OF SOVEREIGN STATES,

DISTRIBUTION

LOCAL/LOCALE

ORIGINATOR/REDACTEUR

DIVISION

TELEPHONE

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