

1 MEMBER OF THE PRESS: Mr. Minister, Prime Minister
2 Trudeau created some furor in the news by saying that he
3 would use force to prevent Quebec from seceding.

4 Was he being serious--or was it just political
5 showmanship tactics?

6 If he used force, would that be Constitutional?

7 MINISTER LALONDE: Well, again, I think what the
8 problem is is that our Embassy has not re-circulated to you
9 enough of what, exactly, the Prime Minister did say in
10 that interview.

11 This was in a television interview, and he was
12 asked a hypothetical question, which was: Assuming that
13 even if Mr. Levesque does not win his referendum, assuming
14 that he declares independence unilaterally and he takes over
15 the Airports, and the Post Offices, and things like that;
16 what are you going to do, Mr. Prime Minister?

17 So the Prime Minister answered: "If, against the
18 will of the majority of the people of Quebec, the Provincial
19 Government acts illegally to achieve its purpose in that way,
20 I will not hesitate to use the sword." Which is to say that
21 he is going to see to it that the law of the land is going
22 to be respected, even by a Provincial Government! Obviously,
23 that would be completely illegal. He was asked what he
24 would do against a Government that would act illegally
25 and would attack the basic Constitution of the Country; and