

1 know it has a lot of defects. But the other alternative is
 2 even worse. So I don't think we need direct interference, or
 3 even indirect interference, of the United States into our
 4 debate at the present time. I don't think it would be very
 5 helpful anyway. I think that the type of attitude that has
 6 been followed: "Business as usual and let the Canadians
 7 decide for themselves" is probably the best one.

8 MR. TATU: What about the French government?

9 MINISTER LALONDE: I would like the same attitude
 10 from the French government.

11 MR. DUKE: How do the Canadians react?

12 Do they fear an adverse reaction in the United
 13 States? Will that affect the outcome in Quebec?

14 MINISTER LALONDE: I think they do; and people
 15 in Quebec do; and the present Government of Quebec fears
 16 that kind of adverse reaction; and this is why Mr. Levesque
 17 was so concerned about maintaining open communication with
 18 the Business community and with the Media in the United States.

19 I think one factor that the French Canadians,
 20 or the Quebecois, are weighing quite clearly, is the
 21 attitude of the Business community, and the American people,
 22 generally. I think if they were to feel that the Business
 23 community is very supportive of the wish of the current
 24 Government, and that if the Business community were to
 25 express the view that it just does not matter, then that

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