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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au  
haut commissaire par intérim à Terre-Neuve  
Secretary of State for External Affairs to  
Acting High Commissioner in Newfoundland*

TELEGRAM 107

Ottawa, July 23, 1948

IMMEDIATE. Following for Bridle from MacKay:

1. Expect arrive on midnight plane tonight. Please notify McEvoy. Keeping visit as quiet as possible.

636.

PCO-CRF

*Déclaration à la presse du Premier ministre  
Statement to the Press by Prime Minister*

Ottawa, July 23, 1948

The Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, issued the following statement to the press:

“The Canadian Government and, I am sure, the people of Canada generally are watching with deep interest the press reports of the results of the referendum held yesterday in Newfoundland. The reports indicate that a substantial vote has been cast in favour of Confederation; there has also been a substantial vote in favour of Responsible Government. Apparently, a number of outlying communities are still to be heard from before a complete picture can be had of the situation. The Canadian Government is being kept informed of the results as they become available and will in due course be notified officially of the final result. Until this result is authoritatively known and has been considered by the Cabinet, I prefer to refrain from further comment.”

637.

*Extrait de The Mackenzie King Record<sup>75</sup>  
Extract from The Mackenzie King Record<sup>75</sup>*

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In his diary for July 23, the Prime Minister noted that “in Council on Tuesday (July 20) St. Laurent mentioned that our advice was that Confederation would carry by a narrow majority. He thought, and Council agreed, that if it was very close we should not consider Confederation. It was agreed we would decide the matter finally on Tuesday night. Thursday was the day of polling. The first returns, which would be St. John’s, were against Confederation, as one would expect. Then, as rural districts came in the balance turned, but all too indeci-

<sup>75</sup>Volume 4, pp. 344-5.