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FM EXTEROTT MAY3/68
TO EMEPARIS W111 IMMED
REF OURTEL W109 MAY3
MINISTERS PRESS CONFERENCE

*Special press releases
on my desk please
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FOLLOWING ARE REPLIES GIVEN BY MR SHARP IN ENGLISH DURING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY RELATING TO THE PARIS EDUCATION CONFERENCE AND RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND CDA.

2. QUESTION-CBC: MR SHARP, WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE PARIS NOTE NOW? HAS IT GONE AND HAS IT BEEN DELIVERED?

MR SHARP: YES, I AM NOT/NOT QUITE SURE YET WHETHER THE NOTE HAS BEEN PHYSICALLY DELIVERED BUT IT IS IN PROCESS OF BEING DELIVERED AND IT WILL BE DELIVERED AT AN APPROPRIATELY SENIOR LEVEL AT THE EARLIEST CONVENIENCE OF THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IF MR COUVE DE MURVILLE IS NOT/NOT THERE IT WILL BE DELIVERED.

QUESTION: CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE TONE OF THE NOTE?

MR SHARP: NO/NO, I DON'T REALLY THINK IT IS APPROPRIATE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN CDA AND FRANCE TO PUBLISH THIS NOTE AND THAT IS CERTAINLY NOT/NOT OUR INTENTION NOW. WE ARE NOT/NOT CARRYING ON A CAMPAIGN, WE ARE CARRYING ON A DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVTS DISCUSSING A MATTER THAT IS OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE.

QUESTION: UNDER NORMAL DEFINITIONS, IS IT A PROTEST NOTE?

MR SHARP: WE NEVER PUT ANY NAMES ON MSGS OF THIS KIND. THE POSITION OF THE CDN GOVT ON THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN MADE FAIRLY CLEAR AND CERTAINLY THE MSG WHICH WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE FRENCH GOVT WILL NOT/NOT BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE POSITION THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN EXPRESSED ON MANY OCCASIONS IN THE DOCUS THAT WERE PUBLISHED IN

PAGE TWO W111

CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AND OTHERWISE.

QUESTION: WHEN WOULD THE FRENCH GOVT RECEIVE IT NORMALLY?

MR SHARP: I THINK IT IS POSSIBLE LATER TODAY AND I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THIS STORY THAT WE WERE WAITING FOR MR COUVE DE MURVILLE TO PRESENT IT TO HIM PERSONALLY IS NOT/NOT TRUE.

QUESTION: IN CONNECTION WITH THE NOTE TO PARIS-DO YOU EXPECT THIS NOTE TO BE THE CONCLUDING EPISODE OF THE FRANCE AFFAIR OR WILL THERE BE FURTHER NOTES?

MR SHARP: WELL IN OUR MSG TO THE FRENCH GOVT WE WILL EMPHASISE THE IMPORTANCE THAT CDA ATTACHES TO CONTINUING GOOD RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, AND PARTICULARLY OUR COMMON INTEREST IN THE FRANCOPHONE (COUNTRIES) AND IN SUPPORT OF FRENCH CULTURE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. I WOULD HOPE THERE WILL CONTINUE TO BE FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS AND FRUITFULL COOPERATIVE ACTION BETWEEN FRANCE AND CDA IN THIS FIELD.

QUESTION: MR SHARP, HAS THE CDN GOVT BEEN INFORMED OF ANY OF THE DETAILS CONCERNING QUEBEC AID TO GABON?

MR SHARP: I HAVE BEEN INFORMED AND I GATHER THAT WHAT IS BEING TALKED ABOUT IS A COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH RESPECT TO TEACHERS AND EDUCATION IN GENERAL.... I MIGHT ADD THAT THE PROVINCES, INCLUDING THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, AND CDA, HAVE BEEN COOPERATING IN THIS FIELD. WE HAD VERY CLOSE COOPERATION FROM QUEBEC IN FOREIGN AID THAT INVOLVES EDUCATION SO THAT I BELIEVE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE VERY FRUITFULL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN OTT AND THE PROVINCES, INCLUDING QUEBEC, IN THIS FIELD.

PAGE THREE WILL

QUESTION: IS IT CONVENIENT THAT WHEN OUR RELATIONS ARE SUSPENDED WITH GABON THAT QUEBEC HAVE SUCH EXCHANGES?

MR SHARP: WELL, OUR RELATIONS WITH GABON ARE RATHER SUSPENDED; WE HAVENT BROKEN OFF RELATIONS WITH GABON, WE SIMPLY HAVE NOT/NOT ACCREDITED OUR AMBASSADOR WHO WAS GOING TO GO THERE. I SAID WHEN I WAS ASKED THIS QUESTION BEFORE THAT I BELIEVE THERE IS LOTS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR CDNS, INCLUDING PROVINCES TO HELP IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE OF THIS KIND TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND I BELIEVE WE WILL FIND THE MEANS BY WHICH PROVINCES CAN COOPERATE, AS THEY HAVE BEEN COOPERATING WITHIN THE CDN CONSTITUTION.

QUESTION: SIR, YOU SPOKE A FEW MINUTES AGO ABOUT HOPING TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE FRUITFULL DISCUSSIONS IN THE MATTER OF FRANCOPHONIE AND RELATED MATTERS. WOULD THIS BE IN THE PARTICULAR CONTEXT OF THE MTG WHICH TOOK PLACE IN PARIS OR IN A BROADER CONTEXT?

MR SHARP: I WOULD HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE IN A BROADER CONTEXT.

QUESTION: IS THIS MATTER CLOSED WITH THE DELIVERY OF THE NOTE?

MR SHARP: I WOULD HOPE SO. IT MUST BE BORN IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT MY PREDECESSOR ISSUED A PAPER TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE DEALING WITH THE QUESTION OF INTERNATL AFFAIRS AND THE CDN CONSTITUTION. I EXPECT THAT THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE WILL CONTINUE ON THIS MATTER, INDEED I FEEL SURE THAT WE SHALL HAVE TO ELABORATE OUR POSITION IN THE LIGHT OF THE EVENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE. THAT WILL BE A MATTER THAT

...4

PAGE FOUR W111

AFFECTS ALL PROVINCES, NOT/NOT ANY ONE IN PARTICULAR.

QUESTION: ... THAT FAMOUS NOTE TO PARIS: I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER IT WAS PREPARED BY YOUR DEPT OR THE CABINET AND SECONDLY, WHETHER IT WAS SIGNED BY YOU OR MR TRUDEAU.

MR SHARP: THE ANSWER TO THE SECOND PART IS THAT IT WILL BE DELIVERED BY THE AMBASSADOR IN THE CUSTOMARY WAY... HE WILL BE PRESENTING AS THE CDN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE... THE MSG WAS DISCUSSED, AS SUCH THINGS ARE, IN THE PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE AND IN MY OFFICE BECAUSE THIS IS THE ORDINARY WAY THESE THINGS ARE DONE, AND AS A SUBJ OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE, OF COURSE IT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WIDELY AMONG THE MINISTERS.

QUESTION: ON THE SAME THING-WEVE NOW GOT THREE POINTS: THE GABON NOTE WAS SIGNED BY MR MARTIN; OUR RELATIONS WITH GABON ARE STILL SUSPENDED, AND WE ARE NOT/NOT GOING TO MAKE THIS NOTE PUBLIC. IS THIS TREATING BIG AND SMALL NATIONS ALIKE?

MR SHARP: NO/NO, I DONT REALLY THINK SO. IF YOU LOOK BACK AT THE PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE TIME OF THE GABON INCIDENT, YOU'LL SEE THAT AFTER PUTTING OUR VIEWS CLEARLY ON THE RECORD, WE SIMPLY INDICATED THAT OUR AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE WOULD NOT/NOT THEN PROCEED WITH THE PRESENTATION OF HIS CREDENTIALS. THERE IS NO/NO AUTOMATIC RESPONSE TO SITUATIONS IN DIPLOMACY; THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE TWO CASES BETWEEN GABON AND THE MSG THAT IS NOW BEING SENT DIFFER-FOR EXAMPLE WE HAVE A RESIDENT AMBASSADOR IN FRANCE AND THEREFORE THE QUESTION OF PRESENTING CREDENTIALS DOESNT

...5

PAGE FIVE W111

ARISE, AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE PARIS CONFERENCE WERE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT TO THOSE SURROUNDING THE ONE IN LIBREVILLE. OUR OBJECT IN THIS WHOLE EXCHANGE IS TO TRY TO PROMOTE WHAT WE BELIEVE ALL CDNS WANT AND THAT IS CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE FRANCOPHONIE AND WITH FRANCE AND WITH FRENCH PEOPLE GENERALLY. WE TOOK EXCEPTION TO THE WAY IN WHICH THE ORIGINAL CONFERENCE WAS CALLED, FOR REASONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE VERY EVIDENT AND WE HOPE THAT THAT WILL NOT/NOT RECUR AND CERTAINLY OUR OBJECTIVE NOW IS TO TRY TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF CDA AND OF ALL OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE FRENCH AS A LANGUAGE. THAT IS OUR OBJECTIVE AND I HOPE WE CAN ACHIEVE IT.

QUESTION: WHERE IS OUR AMBASSADOR TO GABON NOW?

THIS MATTER OF THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONSHIPS IS UNDER CONSIDERATION.