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CALLS BY CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER, THE HON MRS JEAN WADDS -
3.15 PM TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 1981 ON THE LORD PRIVY SEAL,
MR LUCE AND LORD TREFGARNE

1. Mrs Wadds was accompanied by Mr Reeves Haggan, special adviser on the Constitution, and Mr Gagnier, First Secretary.

2. After initial courtesies Mrs Wadds said that her Government was obviously pleased about the Supreme Court's seven to two verdict on the legality of Mr Trudeau's proposals. She hoped that the Provinces would take a more moderate line than had originally been thought and that they would take up the opening which Mr Trudeau had left in his press conference in Seoul for the possibility of more talks. The talks would have to last only days though, not weeks or months. Mr Haggan re-emphasised this later in the talks.

3. The Lord Privy Seal said that it was clearly early days yet and that the Supreme Court decision would be carefully studied in the immediate future. However, from the little he had learned about the detail of the judgment, it did not appear to have made passage of the proposals through the UK Parliament any easier. Mrs Wadds replied that the decision on legality had made the position easier for the Federal Government and that ought to make it easier for the UK too. The Lord Privy Seal observed that parliamentary opinion here was likely to take account of the judgment as a whole and not just one part of it. It was agreed that it was important that the High Commission keep in close touch with us in the ensuing weeks.

4. In further discussions with Mr Luce and Lord Trefgarne, Mrs Wadds repeated that she hoped that in any further talks between the Provinces and the Federal Government, which could take place before or during the next Canadian Parliamentary session (re-opening on 14 October) the Provinces might be more willing to come to terms. Their immediate reaction to the Court's decision had not been as dramatic or hostile as might have been expected and there was evidence of a wish to have the matter settled. At a meeting earlier

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in the day chaired by the Premier of British Columbia, Mrs Wadds thought she detected a more conciliatory tone and that from this meeting it looked unlikely (at the moment anyway) that Provincial Premiers would decide to come to the UK to lobby for their cause. Mrs Wadds said that in radio and press interviews with 'John Citizen' following the Court's decision the mood of the country was one of 'Lets get it finished' and allow the Government to get down to more important issues such as the economy, interest rates, etc.

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