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A CANADIAN CONFERENCE
ON RELIGION AND
WORLD PEACE

UNE CONFÉRENCE CANADIENNE
SUR LA RELIGION ET LA PAIX
MONDIALE

November 9th to 11th, 1980

du 9 au 11 Novembre, 1980

Office/Bureau: 11 Madison Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5R 2S2 - (416) 924-9351

December 9, 1980

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Committees and Private
Legislation Branch
Comités et Législation Privée

The Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Trudeau:

The two hundred participants in a multireligious Canadian Conference on Religion and World Peace held in Toronto November 9 - 11, 1980 adopted the following resolution and asked us to transmit it to you:

"Because progress in the direction of world peace requires the establishment of peace among individuals and within societies, we make a clear statement on the urgency of establishing social and political peace in justice and love, within our own house. Here also in Canada we see violence which afflicts many 'minority' communities; first of all the Native People who were the first to arrive in our country, but also other minority groups, including French Canadians in various regions of Canada and numerous groups in our large cities of European, African, Asian and Latin American origin.

We deplore the fact that in the present constitutional debate in which the whole framework of our collective life is at stake, certain of the above mentioned groups in the ten Canadian provinces are excluded from any direct participation in this process.

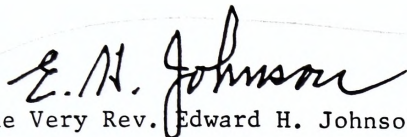
We affirm that in Canada, as elsewhere, peace must involve justice and equality among individuals and people within our country."

Among the participants in the Conference, who came from all regions of Canada, were official representatives of several Christian churches, the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Council of Muslim Communities of Canada as well as individual Buddhists, Hindus, Native Canadians, Sikhs and Zoroastrians.

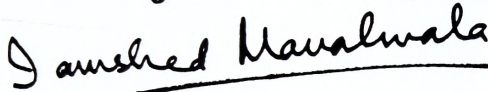
In transmitting this resolution we would draw special attention to the claims of the Native People for a voice in the shaping of the Constitution. We support their demand that the rights of the Native People be solidly entrenched in the Constitution and express the hope that the special committee in its final report to Parliament will include such a recommendation.

We note also that representatives of the Native People who have come to Ottawa on the Constitution Express have thus far been unsuccessful in their efforts to arrange a meeting with you. We recognize that the bill concerning the patriation of the Constitution is now in the hands of the special committee. We would urge you nevertheless to extend to them the courtesy of an appropriate reception and conversation so that they may feel satisfied that their concerns have been heard at the highest level in the Government and may continue in the discussion more fruitfully at the proper point.

Yours very truly,



The Very Rev. Edward H. Johnson, Chairman



Dr. Jamshed Mavalwala, Vice-Chairman

Peace Conference Planning Committee

cc: The Honourable Joe Clark,
Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Ed Broadbent,
Leader of the New Democratic Party

✓ The Clerk of the Joint Senate-Commons Committee
on the Constitution

Participants in the Canadian Conference
on Religion and World Peace