

NATIVE BC VCR

PMO PCO OTT

PRIME MINISTER P E TRUDEAU
PARLIAMENT BLDGS
OTTAWA ONT

RE: CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

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10 NOV 1980

Committees and Private
Legislation Branch
Comités et Législation Privée

COPY

AS LEADER OF OUR COUNTRY, WE ARE TELEXING YOU TO REQUEST THAT INDIAN PEOPLE, CANADA'S FIRST CITIZENS, BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY OF FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE PATRIATION AND DRAWING UP OF CANADA'S CONSTITUTION. THE NATIVE BROTHERHOOD OF BRITISH COLUMBIA IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED OVER TURNING OVER RESOURCE CONTROL TO THE PROVINCES WITHOUT SETTLEMENT OF LAND CLAIMS AND ABORIGINAL RIGHTS. MANY OF THE LAWS UNDER WHICH CONFEDERATION WAS FORMED DID NOT INCLUDE THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF CANADA. SUCH MATTERS OF EQUALIZATION PAYMENTS, TO ENSURE POORER PROVINCS AN EQUITABLE SHARE OF THIS COUNTRY'S RESOURCES CONTINUALLY EXCLUDED INDIAN PEOPLE. IN UR SPEECH ON PATRIATION WHETHER UNILATERALLY OR NOT, MENTION WAS MADE THAT NO ONE WUD BE TREATED AS SECOND CLASS CITIZENS AND YOU ALSO ENSURE LANGUAGE RIGHTS FOR BOTH ENGLISH AND FRENCH. HOWEVER, NO MENTIONS WAS MADE OF LANGUAGE OR CULTURAL RIGHTS OF INDIAN PEOPLE. MANY CANADIANS WUD LIKE TO BE PROUD OF THESE RIGHTS AS THEY HAVE FORMED A WAY OF LIFE SINCE THIS LAND CAME INTO EXISTENCE.

THE FEELING OF INDIAN PEOPLE IS ONE, THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TREATED WORSE THAN SECOND CLASS CITIZENS. ONE ONLY HAS TO TRAVEL THIS COUNTRY TO PERSONALLY WITNESS HOW BAD NATIVE INDIAN PEOPLE HVE BEEN TREATED, IE., 80 TO 90 PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT, LACK OF EDUCATION, LACK OF EDUCATION FACILITIES, LITTLE OR NO PROSPECTS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TO NAME A FEW. THIS AX WAS FURTHER STRESSED IN DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS' SURVEY ON INDIAN CONDITIONS DONE FOR UR GOVERNMENTN WHICH CONFIRMS THE DEPLORABLE TREATMENT OF THE NATIVE INDIANS. WITH ALL THESE FACTORS KNOWN THE CONDITIONS REMAIN THE SAME

MR PRIME MINISTER, YOU NOW HVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECTIFY MANY OF THESE INJUSTICES DONE TO THE INDIAN PEOPLE AND SET AN EXAMPLE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD. WE BEG YOU TO STRONGLY CONSIDER OUR REQUEST, FOR ANYTHING LESS THAN ~~INSTRUMENTAL~~ ENSHRINEMENT OF OUR RIGHTS INTO THE CONSTITUTION WOULD ONLY LEAVE BX A BLACK MARK FOREVER ON CANADA'S CONSCIENCE.

WE ARE WILLING TO MEET WIHT YOURSELF OR ANY OF YOUR DESIGNATES TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER FULLY

NATIVE BROTHERHOOD OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SIGNED:
EDWIN NEWMAN
PRESIDENT

EN:MC

OCTOBER 22, 1980 - 2:50 PM PST

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