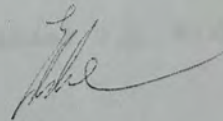


MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL J.L. KIRBY

ICNI letter of May 27, proposed reply
for Mr. Chrétien's signature, and
covering memorandum

-- The attached memorandum to Mr. Chrétien, together with the proposed reply for the Minister's signature to which the memorandum refers, is recommended for your signature.

I have asked that this exchange of correspondence be passed through your office because the issue is obviously a sensitive one. At a recent meeting between Mr. Chrétien and the ICNI, the Minister indeed welcomed the Inuit's intention to support patriation in London but there was no discussion of funding for the trip. At the risk of losing some potentially significant and visible support, I do not believe we can respond positively to the ICNI's request for financial assistance for the reasons explained in your memorandum. Fortunately, I don't believe the risk we're running is very great because I expect the Inuit will be going to London in any event. Furthermore, my own feeling is that the risk of losing the visible support of the Inuit in London is less than the political price the Government might have to pay in Canada if we responded affirmatively to the ICNI request.



Eddie Goldenberg

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HON. JEAN CHRETIEN

May 27 letter from the ICNI requesting funding for a trip to London, to support the Constitution Act, and proposed reply.

The proposed reply to the referenced letter declines the ICNI request for financial assistance. The Inuit, in my judgment, have committed themselves to go to London for their own good reasons and are unlikely to be dissuaded by your negative reply. It could also be politically difficult to explain at some future date why an aboriginal organization which supported the Government's position was offered funding which the other two national organizations were denied. This latter point is explained in your letter.

If you agree with the reasoning which informed the contents of the proposed reply, I recommend the reply for your signature.

Michael J.L. Kirby



Minister of Justice and
Attorney General of Canada

Ministre de la Justice et
procureur général du Canada

Messrs. Watt and Tagoona
Co-Chairmen
Inuit Committee on National Issues
176 Gloucester Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 0A6

Dear Mr. Watt and Mr. Tagoona:

I very much appreciated your letter of May 27, in which you confirmed your intention to go to London to inform British Parliamentarians of Inuit support for the Constitution Act and for the Sections on aboriginal and treaty rights contained therein. While the timing of your visit and the size of your delegation is of course entirely up to you and your organization, I feel you are right to await the Supreme Court of Canada's decision before fixing a date for your visit, and that sending a delegation will be particularly effective in arguing your case before British Parliamentarians and government officials.

Regarding your request for funding for the trip, unfortunately, I am unable to respond positively. Federal financial support to the aboriginal peoples -- to help them prepare and present their positions on the Constitution -- now amounts to \$1.36 million, which has included \$1.2 million shared equally by the National Indian Brotherhood, the Native Council of Canada, and the Inuit Committee on National Issues. The Government is not in a position at this time to increase the overall level of financial support, nor could I justify increasing the amount in the case of the ICNI exclusively.

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Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0H8

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I hope the Inuit will be able to follow through in London on their support for the Constitution Act in spite of your budgetary problems, perhaps with a smaller delegation and a shorter visit. As I have said to you on previous occasions, the Government agrees that your presence in London could be a great help to the Canadian Parliament's desire to bring home Canada's Constitution.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Chrétien