

Eddie

S E C R E T

January 18, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

cc: Minister of Justice

Further Amendments to the
Constitutional Resolution

The following are areas of the constitutional Resolution where policy guidance on further possible amendments is urgently required:

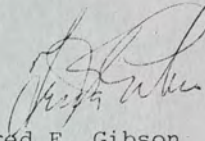
1. International trade and resources;
2. The referendum provision of the permanent amending formula proposed in the Resolution;
3. Native rights; and
4. The role of the Senate under the permanent amending formula proposed in the Resolution.

The first three of these areas are addressed in the attached memorandum from Michael Kirby entitled "The NDP Position on the Constitution: Premier Blakeney and the NDP Caucus". The issue in relation to the Senate is addressed in the attached memorandum from Michael Kirby entitled "The Role of the Senate in the Amending Procedure".

Copies of this memorandum and its attachments are being sent to the Minister of Justice as well as to officials, and it is proposed that the attachments form the basis of a meeting with you on Monday, January 19, that would be attended by the Minister of Justice, and Messrs. Coutts, Pitfield, Kirby, Tassé and myself. To the present time, I have been unable to confirm with your staff that such a meeting is feasible.

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As indicated above, policy guidance on these issues is urgently required. The issue of timing and the importance of the issues are such that it will be important that we receive guidance on the method of communication with Premier Blakeney on the issues of principle concern to him. You will note from Mr. Kirby's memorandum discussing Premier Blakeney's concerns that the Premier has been in direct contact with Gordon Robertson as an intermediary. We will wish to consider with you the possibility of continuing Mr. Robertson's role as an intermediary.



Fred E. Gibson