

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
9TH ASSEMBLY, 4TH SESSION**

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 20-81 (1)

TABLED ON FEBRUARY 20, 1981

PLEASE PASS TELEX ON TO: NELLIE COURNOYEA
13
MLA - WESTERN ARCTIC

February 1981

TB 20-81(1)

MR. SAM RADDI
PRESIDENT
COPE
P.O. BOX 2000
INUVIK, NWT

DEAR MR. RADDI:

I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 11, 1981 IN WHICH YOU REFLECT ON YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS AND YOUR CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO MY LETTER TO SENATOR DAVID G. STEUART DATED DECEMBER 24, 1980.

AS I MENTIONED TO YOU DURING OUR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2ND, I REGRET THAT YOU MISINTERPRETED MY LETTER TO SENATOR STEUART. IN THAT LETTER, I EXPRESSED CERTAIN CONCERNS THAT I HAVE ABOUT A NUMBER OF MATTERS UNDER NEGOTIATION AND I REQUESTED MY CHIEF GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATOR TO DEAL WITH YOU, ON A BILATERAL BASIS, AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE FRUITFUL TO BELABOUR THE POINT OF YOUR INSINUATIONS REGARDING THE CONDUCT AND MOTIVES OF MY NEGOTIATOR AND THOSE WHO ADVISE HIM. I REMAIN FULLY SATISFIED THAT THEY HAVE ACTED WELL WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THEIR MANDATES, WHILE KEEPING IN MIND THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE INUVIALUIT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA.

I REITERATE MY INVITATION FOR YOU TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS WITH SENATOR STEUART AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. GIVEN THE TIME CONSTRAINTS UNDER WHICH WE ARE FUNCTIONING, I WOULD STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE DISCUSSIONS. I AM HOPEFUL THAT WITH THE FULL CO-OPERATION OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, WE COULD ACHIEVE A FINAL AGREEMENT MEETING YOUR EXPECTATIONS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ACCOMMODATING THE CONCERNS I HAVE RAISED.

AS TO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, I CANNOT AGREE WITH YOUR VIEWS THAT MY NEGOTIATOR COULD NOT PROVIDE ME WITH CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE AND THAT I WOULD BE PREVENTED FROM ESTABLISHING, WHEN APPROPRIATE, GUIDELINES FOR HIS USE DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS. IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE OF ME TO ACT OTHERWISE. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE CARRIED ON IN A CO-OPERATIVE MANNER WHILE PRESERVING THE PREFERREDATIVE OF EACH PARTY TO REFER, FROM TIME TO TIME, TO THEIR PRINCIPLES FOR GUIDANCE.

IN CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO NEGOTIATE TOWARDS A FINAL SETTLEMENT OF THE INUVIALUIT CLAIM ON THE BASIS OF THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE. I WOULD HOPE THAT, ON YOUR PART, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT IN TRANSLATING BROAD PRINCIPLES INTO THE DETAILS OF A FINAL AGREEMENT THERE COULD BE CONCERNS WHICH COULD BE ADDRESSED IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVE AND TAKE, IN THE INTEREST OF REACHING A FINAL AGREEMENT WHICH IS JUST AND EQUITABLE TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

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COMM NWTGOV YK

C O P E INVK

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16 FEBRUARY 1981 8:45 MST

HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO
MINISTER INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT
ROOM 309 CB
HOUSE OF COMMONS
OTTAWA, ONTARIO

DEAR MR. MUNRO:

I AM VERY SORRY THAT YOUR TELEX OF FEBRUARY 13, 1981 INDICATES THAT YOU ARE NOT PREPARED TO HONOUR THE AGREEMENT APPROVED BY THE FORMER TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT AND SIGNED BETWEEN CANADA AND OURSELVES IN 1978. WE REGRET AS WELL THAT YOUR OFFICIALS HAVE COMPROMISED THE GOVERNMENT'S GOOD FAITH IN THE NEGOTIATIONS (AND BREACHED THE AGREEMENT IN THAT REGARD) AND THAT YOU HAVE CONDONED AND TRIED TO RATIONALIZE THEIR DECEIT IN DEALING WITH US.

CANADA AND COPE ENTERED INTO THE AGREEMENT IN GOOD FAITH AFTER LENGTHY, COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS WHICH INVOLVED COMPROMISES ON BOTH SIDES. FROM OUR STANDPOINT WE COMPROMISED A GREAT DEAL TO ACHIEVE THE AGREEMENT. IT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO US FOR YOU TO SAY NOW THAT YOU ARE NOT PREPARED TO COMPLY WITH THE COMMITMENTS OF CANADA IN THAT AGREEMENT. WE CONTINUE TO UPHOLD OUR END AND WE CONSIDER THE AGREEMENT TO BE BINDING UPON BOTH PARTIES. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT WE DID NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEAL WITH MEN WHO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF HONOUR AND PRINCIPLE THAT WAS SO FORCEFULLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE HONOURABLE JEAN CHRETIEN ON FEBRUARY 6 WHEN HE REFUSED TO AGREE TO DEMANDS TO REMOVE NATIVE AND OTHER PEOPLE'S RIGHTS FROM THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS BECAUSE HE HAD GIVEN HIS WORD.

WE ARE PREPARED AS ALWAYS, TO NEGOTIATE THE FINAL AGREEMENT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO HONOUR ITS COMMITMENTS IN THE CANADA/COPE AGREEMENT AND TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO RE-ESTABLISH THE GOVERNMENT'S GOOD FAITH IN NEGOTIATIONS. WHEN THE GOVERNMENT IS SERIOUS ABOUT SETTLING OUR OUTSTANDING LAND CLAIMS AND MAKE SUCH COMMITMENTS AND STICKS BY THEIR WORD, I AM OPTIMISTIC WE CAN ACHIEVE THE FINAL AGREEMENT IN A FEW MONTHS.

YOURS SINCERELY,

SAM RADDI
PRESIDENT - COPE
INUVIK, NWT

CC: RIGHT HONOURABLE P.-E. TRUDEAU

HONOURABLE JEAN CHRETIEN
MINISTER OF JUSTICE