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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 June 1990

Dear Charles,

No reply to  
G. J. 18/6.

Expo 2000: Canada

In your letter to Simon Gass of 12 June you asked for a draft reply Mr Mulroneys letter of 11 June about Toronto's claim to be the site of Expo 2000.

The International Exhibitions Bureau (BIE) held a secret vote on 14 June to decide the site for Expo 2000. Hanover won by 21 votes against Toronto (20 votes). There was one abstention.

In our letter of 12 June, we said we would try to preserve the secrecy of our vote. We have done this so far, and we continue to see no advantage in revealing how we voted, even to the Germans. There would be a risk of a leak; and any credit we gained with them could be offset by the disappointment of the Canadians. Moreover, if the vote became public knowledge, there might be enquiries from the media about why we chose one rather than the other. It would be difficult to answer these without appearing to criticise the Canadian bid. The press have shown no interest in how we voted (their interest faded when Venice withdrew from the competition).

I enclose a draft reply but any reply may rub salt in the wound and you may think it better to let the matter lie.

Jans.  
Sophie Gann  
(J S Wall)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER



Thank you for your letter of 11 June about Expo 2000.

Your proposals for the exhibition were very positive and imaginative. Canada conducted an impressive campaign, and I can understand how disappointed you and the organisers in Toronto must have felt by the result.

Toronto has given an excellent account of itself during the campaign and I am sure the city's reputation will benefit.

The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney PC MP

CANDOR : Waiau PTH

