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Class C

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S	27
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I certify that this
is A House's own work.

J. Olorajo

Trudeau on Canada

As I sat in the waiting-room, I checked my tie, was I smart enough? Was my hand-kerchief in place? What would the Prime Minister think of me, a thirteen year-old boy coming to interview him, all these thoughts were going through my mind.

But all too soon my name called and I stepped into his office.

The Prime Minister welcomed me warmly, he offered me a seat. I sat down, and as I settled down into it, he said, "Now Andrew, what can I do for you?" Rather taken aback at use of my Christian name, I glanced at my notes and said, "M, my first question, Prime Minister, is,..." but before I could finish, he broke in, "Before we begin the interview, may I ask you a question?" he said. I nodded, somewhat surprised, this was not something I had expected in my plan. "Well," began the Prime Minister "I was a little surprised when I was informed of your request, and I was much intrigued by the subject: 'The proposed separation of Quebec from the rest of Canada' tell me, why did you choose Canada as the subject of your interview." "Well, I was very interested in the subject since it does not happen very often that part of a large country like Canada decides they want to break off and form their own nation, and although I am not entirely in favour of such a separation, I do feel that they have some good points in their favour and I was rather bewildered as to what the arguments against their aims were. So I would like to ask you for some of your views on this idea and what effects such a separation would have on your country as a whole?"

One of the things that struck me first, was that Quebec makes up a large part of Canada in size, it is three times the size of France, and in terms of population, more than one in four Canadians live in Quebec and, out of that, four out of five Québécois, as they like to be called, speak French.

But I found out that this feeling for an independent nation goes deeper than sheer force of numbers, the Francophones (French

Speaking Canadians) are very culture-conscious and they seem to feel that their fathers came to Quebec not to lose their identity as French, they came to find new lands for themselves and to find prosperity in new business enterprises, some do, but in a federal inquiry it was found out that on the whole it is the Anglophones (English-speaking Canadians) that dominate the world of business in Quebec, and that Francophones who want to get ahead in business are advised to learn English.

The separatists want a French-speaking nation in which their culture is not threatened and in which they are not always the underdogs.

Of course, if this split eventually came about, it would have an effect on Canada's links with the Commonwealth, and I would like to ask you how do you think the Parti Québécois would react to the Commonwealth. And, while on the subject of the Commonwealth I wanted to know what you thought was Canada's continuing role in the British Commonwealth and what effects such a separation would have on it?

Finally, before you begin to answer my questions, Prime Minister Trudeau, make I ask you one more question? What would you think of some sort of compromise between the separatists and the Canadian Government, in which the people of Quebec would get most of their freedom but would still remain part of Canada, preferably voluntarily. Rather like the common bond that holds together the British Commonwealth.

The Prime Minister sat back for a moment as if in thought and then he said slowly "Well Andrew, to try to answer your first question?" Slamm! Suddenly, the slam of a door downstairs brought me back to reality with a jump. Prime Minister Trudeau never did answer my first question, it had all been a fantasy, a daydream, but I had enjoyed it while it lasted and it had given me the ideas for my Commonwealth essay, so I picked up my pen, looked at the

blank piece of paper, and began to write.