



CANADA TURNS TO ITS KING

On March 3, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, travelled to Sandringham House in the UK for an audience with His Majesty King Charles III. The two discussed matters related to the threat of annexation by the US and *“standing up for [Canadian] sovereignty and independence.”*

This audience came after Canadian voices appealed to the sovereign. British counterparts, notably Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, have been criticized for not defending Canada during his meeting with US President Donald Trump and before the eve of a second state banquet for the US President. These are unprecedented and historic events that could result in a royal intervention.

However, in the interest of historical accuracy, it is essential to remember that this gesture by our sovereign is not unprecedented. As sovereign and Canada’s head of state, King Charles can, in specific instances, intervene. For instance, in the 1980s, Queen Elizabeth II made history by exerting pressure on UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. She pushed her firmly but subtly to join the rest of the Commonwealth in imposing sanctions on South Africa to end Apartheid. This act is now recognized for having advanced human rights in the region and around the world.

When there is a strong national consensus on an issue, as is the case today on protecting Canada, it is normal and entirely appropriate for the king to caution those harbouring hostile ideas against the maple leaf. Remember that our sovereign, who has a great deal of experience in exercising “soft power”, is one of the few individuals whom President Trump admires. It is an opportunity to be seized upon.

Canada has one of the oldest continuous monarchies in modern history (even England had a republican lapse). From Henry IV to Charles III, Canada has always had a sovereign. Canadians are content with their system of government, their independence, their culture, and their rich history, and wish to stay that way!

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