

with regard to their bank accounts in Canada, although I concluded from an answer given to a question raised by me, that the Custodian would not object to the managers approaching the Bank for the purpose of persuading them that they are the lawful representatives and consequently that he would not object either to information being given to them with regard to accounts.

I wish to stress in this connection that in England never such like difficulties were experienced on the part of the British authorities.

After all, you will agree with me that the Canadian Order-in-Council No. P.C. 3959 as well as the Netherlands decree A 1, vesting property rights in certain assets in the State of the Netherlands, are both aimed at the same purpose: to keep such assets out of the enemy's hands and away from his influence and control. If the principles of these two measures are difficult to reconcile, their application in practice might at any rate be made subject to one primary consideration: how to attain our object with least inconvenience to the interested parties or their *bona fide* representatives. On this basis there is much room for cooperation. If in concrete cases it is suggested to me that the Netherlands authorities may be misinformed as to the *bona fides* of certain persons or the merits of certain claims, I am, as I always have been, quite prepared either to clear the matter up or to convince the Netherlands authorities concerned that it is preferable not to intervene.

I regret however to say that approaches on these lines have been few.

All these incidental difficulties have made me wonder whether it is really necessary to continue acting in an atmosphere of aloofness such as I have tried to describe. If it were possible to bring about fruitful cooperation, it would undoubtedly be of advantage to both parties.

Yours sincerely,

F. E. H. GROENMAN

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*Le ministre des Pays-Bas au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*  
*Minister of The Netherlands to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

No. 127

Ottawa, January 25, 1943

Sir,

To my regret I have to revert to the subject of the application of Order-in-Council P.C. 3959 in regard to the interests vested in the Netherlands Government by the Royal Decree A 1, in respect of which a situation has arisen which causes me some alarm.

In your note of August 4th, 1942, No. 52, you intimated that there is no doubt as to the attitude of the Canadian Government in relation to the *validity* of the measures legally enacted by the *Netherlands Government*.

It has however come to my knowledge that the Custodian has written to the Barclays Bank at Montreal, that if he authorized Canadian Banks holding funds