

5. The reasons for these amendments are, in our judgment, overwhelming and conclusive. So far as Canada is concerned they are set forth briefly in the annexed letters. It is not necessary to elaborate them. As to Canada's effort in this struggle for democracy it speaks for itself. She has not asked for representation on the Council or in the Governing Body unless it is accorded by the voice of the other members of the League and of the Convention. She has raised no objection to the nomination of Spain and Brazil, of whom one was at least neutral and the other took no active part in the war. But she cannot admit disqualification or accept a position inferior to that of the smaller states alluded to in the letter of April 29th.

6. It is now proposed that Canada should become a party to a treaty by which she shall undertake to engage in active warlike operations against Germany in case that country at any time in the future should be guilty of aggression against France. I am not aware that any similar undertaking is proposed for Spain or Brazil or Greece or Belgium, or for any of the smaller States whose representatives are not debarred from election to the Council of the League or to the Governing Body of the Labour Convention. Canada is asked to make way for all these States except when effort and sacrifice are demanded; then, but not till then, she is accorded full and even prior representation. She is to be in the first line of the battle but not even in the back seat of the Council. The submission of such a proposal to our Parliament would, in my opinion, be wholly futile. Indeed I am convinced that it would be bitterly resented not only by Parliament but by the vast majority of the Canadian people.

134. *Déclaration sur le statut des dominions indépendants aux termes du Pacte de la Société des Nations*¹

Paris, May 6, 1919

The question having been raised as to the meaning of Article IV of the League of Nations Covenant, we have been requested by Sir Robert Borden

¹ La note suivante de sir Robert Borden en date du 30 juillet 1919 est jointe au document original:

The following paper is an original document signed at the Quai d'Orsay, Paris, on May 6, 1919, by the First Delegates of the three Principal Powers at the Paris Peace Conference, viz., M. Georges Clemenceau, President of the Council of the French Republic, the Hon. Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, and the Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. It declares that upon the true construction of Article 4 of the League of Nations Covenant, representatives of the self-governing Dominions of the British Empire may be selected or named as members of the Council of the League.

This document was signed and handed to me in the course of the secret Plenary Session of the Peace Conference, held at the Quai d'Orsay on May 6, 1919, when the draft Treaty of Peace with Germany was submitted to the Delegates of the Allied and Associated Powers.

A true copy was taken on the same day by Sir Maurice Hankey, British Secretary of the Peace Conference, and by him transmitted to M. Dutasta, Secretary-General of the Peace Conference archives; while a copy was also incorporated in the minutes of the proceedings of the Council of Four for the day, it being recorded in each case that the original signed copy had been retained by myself.

This document (together with this memorandum) should be deposited for record and safe keeping in the archives of the Department of External Affairs.

R. L. BORDEN