

in Europe during the next eighteen months. Our view is that in doing this as few commitments as possible should be made regarding the Permanent International Health arrangements.

1229.

DEA/2295-Y-40

*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
à l'ambassadeur aux États-Unis  
Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Ambassador in United States*

DESPATCH 1688

Ottawa, November 27, 1944

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my recent teletype, concerning the draft Sanitary Conventions which are to be considered by the Technical Committee on Health of UNRRA early in December, and to the proposals of the United Kingdom concerning a permanent International Health Organization. In my teletype a request was made that a member of the Embassy staff should attend the meeting of the Committee in order to be able to report on the broad questions of policy which may arise there.

2. It appears to me that the immediate problem is to secure the adoption of the Sanitary Conventions which will safeguard public health in Europe during the period immediately following the end of the war. The two Conventions which have been drafted by the Committee of UNRRA are designed for this purpose and, so far as the immediate problem is concerned, there seems to me to be no practicable alternative to their adoption. This then should be the primary purpose of Canadian attendance at the Technical Committee.

3. The question raised in the Dominions Office Circular telegram D. 1684 of November 15th is whether, in order to secure the adoption of the draft Conventions, it may not be necessary to give certain assurances to the French representatives concerning the permanent International Health Organization which should be set up after the war. The result of this telegram has been to force consideration at very short notice of a problem which has very wide implications. It is hoped that it will not be necessary to give consideration to the details of this larger problem at the present time but it may be helpful that you should have before you the views of the Canadian Department of Health and Welfare which have been set out in a letter from the Minister to Mr. Wrong, dated November 24th. A copy of this letter is enclosed. I also enclose copies of two memoranda on the general history of health organization, prepared by Mr. Renaud of this Department.<sup>†</sup>

4. It may well be that it is impossible to secure the assent of the French to the draft Sanitary Conventions without giving some such assurance as that set out in Circular D. 1684 and the Government of the United Kingdom has been informed that in a general way the Canadian authorities have no objection to such an assurance being given. It would, however, be preferable if the adoption of the Conventions could be secured without paying this price for it.