

MOST SECRET

Ireland
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

C194469

Mr. Hearne is very anxious to have a few minutes with you sometime today on the subject of the notes presented by the United States and the United Kingdom to the Irish Government. I saw him this afternoon, read him the instructions that had been sent to Mr. Kearney, and explained why you did not think it would be possible for Canada to intervene to secure the withdrawal of the notes. I think he understands the difficulties of the position in which Mr. De Valera's request has placed us. At the same time I think it would be helpful if you could have a short word with him yourself. A personal word from you might help to steady Mr. De Valera and prevent a bad business from getting worse.

The Irish and the United Kingdom Governments both know exactly the position we have taken, and they know, through their representatives here, that we feel that publicity would advantage no one. The only question open, as far as I can see, is whether or not we should take some more explicit action to urge the Governments directly concerned to keep secret the fact that approaches on this subject had been made by the United Kingdom and United States Governments and rejected by the Irish Government.

For convenience of reference I am attaching copies of the telegrams exchanged on this subject and of the notes I have given you about it:

- ✓ Dominions Office Circular D.277 of February 23;
- ✓ Telegrams from High Commissioner in Ireland, No.12 of February 24th and No.13 of February 25th;
- ✓ Telegrams to High Commissioner in Ireland, No.4 and No.5 of February 25th;
- ✓ Copies of memoranda to the Prime Minister of February 25; and Copy of United States note to the Irish Government of February 21st, copy of which I received today from the Irish High Commissioner here.

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