

As regards the protection by the Swiss Government of Canadian interests in Italian-occupied territory, the Italian Government have not officially and specifically signified their agreement to the assumption by the Swiss Government of the protection of British interests in Greece and Yugoslavia, owing no doubt to the fact that the question of the division of the control of Greece and Yugoslavia between the German and Italian Governments is a delicate one.

Nevertheless, the Swiss Consul in Athens has been allowed to take over the charge of all interests previously protected by the United States Government and the protection of British interests there.

The Swiss Government have informed me that they feel confident that the Swiss Representatives in those countries will be able to ensure the protection of British and Dominions interests there by treating each question as it arises on an ad hoc and practical basis.

The position is the same in regard to the protection by the Swiss Government of United Kingdom interests in Italian-occupied territory.

I have etc.

DAVID VICTOR KELLY

91.

DEA/1954-G-40

*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au ministre aux États-Unis*  
*Secretary of State for External Affairs to Minister in United States*

TELETYPE EX-2837

Ottawa, November 8, 1942

IMMEDIATE. SECRET. Following message is going forward tonight to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.

Begins: Assume that His Majesty's Minister at Berne has been or is being instructed to enquire whether Switzerland would accept the responsibility of Protecting Power for British interests in Vichy France should the United States relinquish the protection of those interests. If so, please request him to make a similar approach on behalf of the Canadian Government with a view to ascertain whether Switzerland would be prepared to take over as Protecting Power for Canadian interests in Vichy France should the need arise. Ends.

Please inform the United States Government that it is the intention of the Canadian Government to ask Switzerland to take over the protection of Canadian interests in Vichy France should the United States find it necessary to relinquish the task of Protecting Power for Canadian interests in that area. In doing so please express the gratitude of the Canadian Government for the services rendered on the protection of Canadian nationals and interests in non-occupied France and French territories since the summer of 1940.