

37. Le Gouverneur général au secrétaire aux Colonies

SECRET DESPATCH

Ottawa, February 6, 1918

Sir,

With reference to my secret telegraphic despatch of the 2nd instant on the subject of the institution of a Canadian War Mission in the United States of America, I have the honour to enclose, herewith, a copy of an approved Minute of the Privy Council for Canada,¹ upon which my telegram was based.

My Prime Minister, in recommending the institution of the Mission, points out the importance of providing adequate representation of the interests of the Dominion in the United States, and also of securing the most effective co-operation between Canada and that country in respect of many economic and financial measures vitally connected with the prosecution of the war. He further represents that this co-operation can best be attained by the appointment of an appropriate Canadian representative at Washington and points out that, while suitable status should be accorded to such representative, it is not intended that any steps should be taken which could be construed as being in any way incompatible with the unity of the British Commonwealth in its relations with a foreign state. Such representative is to be known as the Chairman of the Canadian War Mission and this official will be directly responsible to the Canadian Cabinet.

The functions, powers and duties of the Chairman and of the Canadian War Mission are fully defined in Minute of Council.

A copy of the Minute has been communicated to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Washington.

I have etc.

DEVONSHIRE

¹ Document n° 35.