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*Le secrétaire aux Dominions au secrétaire d'État  
aux Affaires extérieures*

*Dominions Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM A. 54

London, December 19, 1929

IMMEDIATE. SECRET. My telegram Circular A. 51. As a result of several discussions between the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Soviet Ambassador Designate, it appeared that it would be possible to arrange forthwith exchange of notes in the following terms:

(i) Soviet Ambassador in London would present to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs following *note verbale*:

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in giving Undertaking contained in Article XVI of the General Treaty signed on the 8th August, 1924, between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and confirmed by notes exchanged today, have considered that Undertaking as extending also to Dominions (Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, the Irish Free State and Newfoundland). Consequently as soon as the Government of any of the Dominions shall have regulated their relations with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in such a manner as circumstances of particular case may require, the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics will be ready to repeat on a basis of reciprocity the Undertaking above referred to in separate exchange of notes with such Dominions.

(ii) Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs would address to the Soviet Ambassador following reply:

With reference to your *note verbale* dated today, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the attitude of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as indicated in your note is being communicated to His Majesty's Governments in Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, the Irish Free State and Newfoundland.

2. Further I have the honour at the instance of His Majesty's Governments in Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, the Irish Free State and Newfoundland to state that each of these Governments will regard Undertaking contained in Article XVI of the Treaty signed 8th August, 1924, between Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as having full force and effect as between themselves and Government of Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

This procedure is considerable advance on that described in my telegram Circular A. 51 and we are assuming that His Majesty's Governments in the Dominions would prefer it. It is evident that it represents maximum which can be secured from the Soviet Government in the present circumstances.