

Sir Robert Borden observed that we should carefully consider the points to which the present proposal would lead. If the Peace Conference, instead of exercising jurisdiction upon admitted and acknowledged facts, should propose to establish an international tribunal before which the ex-Kaiser should be impeached, some definite and permanent principle should be asserted and embodied in the proposed action. The principle to be asserted should be set forth in terms as precise and definite as the subject would permit, and should be so expressed as to include all persons responsible for forcing upon the world an unjust and aggressive war. The tribunal should be established or provided for upon a permanent basis, so that all rulers and advisers of rulers in the future might know the penalty for any such action as that undertaken by the German autocracy in 1914. If such a principle were formulated and such a tribunal established, then both the principle and the tribunal could be declared to apply to the events which forced this war upon the world. He desired to observe that, whether the ex-Kaiser was to be sentenced by the Peace Conference or to be tried before the proposed tribunal, this should be asked for without delay.

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6. *Acting Prime Minister to Prime Minister*¹

TELEGRAM P. 35

SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, December 4, 1918

From White. Council today further considered Canadian representation at Peace Conference and is even more strongly of opinion than when you left that Canada should be represented. Council is of opinion that in view of war efforts of Dominions other nations entitled to representation at Conference should recognize unique character of British Commonwealth composed of group of free nations under one sovereign and that provision should be made for special representation of these nations at Conference even though it may be necessary that in any final decisions reached they should speak with one voice; that if this is not possible then you should form one of whatever delegation represents British Commonwealth. It surely is not contemplated that each nation at war should have exactly same numerical representation, so that Serbia and Portugal would have as large representation as Great Britain and France. Should not representation be to some extent commensurate with war effort? Would you like Order in Council passed or any other official action taken declaring attitude of Government on question of Canadian representation at Conference? If so please cable.

¹The Prime Minister's Office in Ottawa appears to have been the regular channel for telegraphic correspondence between Borden and his colleagues in Ottawa during his absence in Europe for the Peace Conference. Thus telegrams from Borden to Ottawa are addressed "Prime Minister", and telegrams to Borden are signed "Prime Minister". In both cases obviously the term means "Acting Prime Minister". In order to avoid confusion the word "Acting" is added where this is clearly meant.