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C 287635 WS 44

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TELEGRAM

FROM: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, OTTAWA
TO: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS, LONDON

Ottawa, December 18th, 1944

No.

MOST IMMEDIATE

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Following for the Prime Minister from the Prime Minister.

Your telegram No. 217. I can only conclude that my telegram No. 239 was garbled in transmission. It contained no suggestion that I might issue "a public statement that Canadian troops shall not be used in Greece" nor have I had any intention so to do. What I said was that I had given an assurance that Canadian forces should not be sent there without the consent of the Canadian Government. That is a very different matter which is open to no objection and does not increase your difficulties. I do not see how as head of the Canadian Government when asked in parliament, as I was, for such an assurance I could have taken a different line. I hope to avoid any further public statement on this matter and I am glad to learn of the orders issued to Field Marshal Alexander.

Original in WO 112
Copies in Churchill
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