

The facts of International Petroleum Company's case also Canadian Committee's suggested policy have been informally communicated to Solicitor to the State Department of the United States and Sir Henry Babington Smith of the British Embassy Washington.

DEVONSHIRE

29. *Prime Minister to Acting Prime Minister*

TELEGRAM X. 12

SECRET

PRIVATE AND PERSONAL

Paris, January 20, 1919

Increased representation was given to Belgium and Serbia without consultation with Dominions who knew nothing of proposal until it had been accomplished.¹ It appears to have been based on purely sympathetic considerations. Lloyd George made a strong fight against it but eventually had to yield. I am filing a protest against the change which is especially embarrassing in view of first announcement. Please cable immediately whether change has aroused unfavourable criticism in Canada.

BORDEN

30. *Memorandum by Prime Minister on Increased Representation to Belgium and Serbia*²

SECRET

W.C.P. 24

Paris, January 20, 1919

1. The Canadian Ministers have observed the stand which the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom made against the proposal for increased representation to Belgium and to Serbia, which seems to have been based on purely sympathetic considerations, and they realize the difficult position in which he found himself on that account.

2. They desire, however, to express their strong conviction that it was most unfortunate to effect such a change without consultation or communication with the representatives of the Dominions. The consequences of the change are probably not material except insofar as they affect sentiment; but they permit themselves to observe that it was sentiment, coupled with the ideal of duty and not any material considerations, that induced the effort of Canada in this war. There is no question which so profoundly affects public

¹On January 17, the Council of Ten agreed to three representatives each for Belgium and Serbia. *Ibid.* 601-603.

²Circulated to the British Empire Delegation. The memorandum is unsigned, but Borden's report No. 4 (January 22, 1919) to the Cabinet in Ottawa states: "On Monday morning Sir Robert Borden prepared and transmitted to Sir Maurice Hankey. . . a memorandum containing certain observations upon and objections to the course pursued in increasing the representation of Belgium and Serbia . . ."