

rests on the ancient doctrine that an Ambassador represented the person of the Sovereign in a way which gave him readier access to the Head of the foreign state.

The evident Russian misunderstanding of the Commonwealth constitutional position, which Wilgress and the Australian Chargé d'Affaires have been trying to clear up,<sup>58</sup> may have something to do with this senior-junior relationship between the diplomatic representation abroad of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth countries.

It seems to me there is a *prima facie* case for raising the status of the Canadian Minister in Washington and Moscow if one looks at the position in these capitals alone. If, however, one examines the effect of this change elsewhere, it seems likely that we should have to take complementary action at other posts and probably also in Ottawa as well.<sup>59</sup>

It would, I think, be difficult for us to receive a United States Ambassador here while refusing to exchange Ambassadors with Brazil, Argentina and Chile. If we agree to an exchange of Ambassadors with the United States and the U.S.S.R. alone, I feel sure that we should receive requests from these countries and probably from all the other countries whose missions in Washington and London are now Embassies.

It seems not improbable that the distinction between Ambassadors and Ministers, having become purely formal and in some ways quite invidious, will disappear by general agreement. If so, the method of disappearance is almost certain to be through the alteration of all remaining legations to embassies. When we have Haiti represented by Ambassadors throughout the American continents and a country as small as Norway represented by Ambassadors in Washington and London, there is not much to be said for preserving an artificial distinction which now serves only to create an impression of inferiority which is not justified in fact. I understand this is, in fact, the intention of the United States, which plans to raise all of its heads of missions who are not now ambassadors to that rank immediately after the war. This would involve the transformation into embassies of the legations now operating in Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Liberia, New Zealand, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Sweden and South Africa.

Since this change appears to be inevitable, I should not like to see Canada "promoted" in this last odd lot, and I think we might better initiate some action ourselves.<sup>60</sup>

N. A. R[OBERTSON]

<sup>58</sup>Voir les documents 540 à 550.

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<sup>59</sup>Note marginale:

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I agree. K[ING]

<sup>60</sup>La note suivante était écrite sur ce mémorandum: <sup>60</sup>The following note was written on the memorandum:

I agree: Please have steps initiated *at once* to effect the change. Also careful statement for press setting forth reasons for. W. L. M[ACKENZIE] K[ING]