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*Included*  
Laurier House

Sunday - February 27, 1944 C194476 *203*

Memorandum re United States and United Kingdom notes to the  
Government of Eire re German and Japanese Missions.

At noon, Mr. Hearne, the Irish High Commissioner, phoned to ask if he could come and see me personally. I told him Mr. Robertson had spoken to me of his desire to see me, and that I would be pleased to see him at any time, and suggested his coming within the next quarter of an hour. Mr. Hearne arrived about 10 minutes past 12, and we conversed in my library until 1.30.

Mr. Hearne opened the conversation by telling me that one of his colleagues from the United States had come to him to Ottawa with a message from Mr. De Valera, outlining what had taken place with respect to the U.S. and U.K. notes. Mr. De Valera had not wished to take up the matter by official communications direct with the Canadian government through the Irish High Commissioner in Canada.

Before stating specifically what he wanted to speak about, Hearne began to outline the little thanks which the Irish had received for what they had done and were seeking to do by way of co-operation in the war, and went over at length the grounds which gave rise to their suspicion of Britain. He inferred that what was commonly a note from the U.S. in reality was something which had been inspired by the U.K.

I took issue with him immediately on this, going the length of indicating to him what had been said to us in the first communication received about the matter, which was one from the U.K. telling us of their having been asked by the U.S. to support them in the note which the U.S. was sending to the Irish government.

Hearne continued at length about the methods the British had of doing things, and the whole tenor of the early part of his conversation was that there was really back of the note some carefully worked out policy, which meant dictation by Great Powers to a small country, and that no matter what the cost, Eire would not yield to dictation of the kind - certainly not in the light of the war today being one to maintain freedom against oppression.

I told Hearne that I thought he was quite wrong, and that if Mr. De Valera held similar views, he was quite wrong in believing that there was any objective in the notes other than what appeared on the face of *etc.*