

(3) Because rupture would depress French people.

At the same time in order to help United States Government against domestic criticism, we should hope to be able to associate United Kingdom Government with statement somewhat on lines suggested by Secretary of State and have asked that we might see the draft of the proposed statement.

28.

PCO

Extrait du procès-verbal du Comité de guerre du Cabinet
Extract from Minutes of Cabinet War Committee

SECRET

Ottawa, May 8, 1942

...

RELATIONS WITH FRANCE

36. THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS reported recent developments.

The Prime Minister had said in the House that a statement of policy would be made upon the return of the Canadian Chargé d'Affaires, M. Dupuy.¹⁰ M. Dupuy had now arrived in Canada.

On April 24th, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, in answer to an enquiry by the Canadian government, had suggested that Canada might now cease to receive the French Minister. On April the 29th, on the other hand, a message from the U.K. government, reporting conversations on the subject with the United States, had contained a statement of reasons for the maintenance of Franco-American diplomatic relations in the same circumstances. These same reasons, in part at least, applied also to Canada. Joint or simultaneous statements along these lines by the British and American governments were in contemplation.

It would put Canada in a strange position if such public statements were to coincide with our dismissal of M. Ristelhueber.

In the circumstances, it was felt that as an immediate step, the French consulates might be closed, but the Legation permitted to remain so long as the United States did not break off relations. In any event, the further views of the U.K. and U.S. governments should be obtained.

(Dominions Office telegrams Nos. 95 and D.225, Dominions Office to External Affairs, April 24 and 29, 1942).

37. THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES felt convinced that the Consul in Montreal was engaging in Vichy propaganda. The sooner the consulates were closed, the better.

38. THE MINISTER OF MINES AND RESOURCES expressed the view that public feeling favoured getting rid of the French Minister. Our maintenance of formal

¹⁰Voir Canada, Chambre des Communes, *Débats*, 1942, volume 2, p.1987, volume 3, pp.2252-3.

¹⁰See Canada, House of Commons, *Debates*, 1942, volume 2, pp.1920-1, volume 3, p.2182.