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CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, 18th November, 1946.

Dear Mr. Robertson:

As you know, Mr. Barrington-Ward, the Editor of the TIMES, was in Ottawa for a few days a week or so ago. During that time he was given an official dinner by the Government, at which the Prime Minister presided, while there were many officials present also at the dinner given for him by Mr. Inglis. On both occasions Mr. Barrington-Ward was given a very warm welcome, but at the same time advantage was taken of his presence to let him know discreetly that a good deal of embarrassment and indeed, some anxiety was felt here over the revival in London of the old "Imperial defence" agitation. Indeed, in his after dinner talk at the Country Club, Mr. King, in a very friendly, but none the less significant way, referred to the dangers of this kind of talk. I do not think the point was lost on Mr. Barrington-Ward. In any event it was reinforced at Mr. Inglis' dinner the following day, when as it happens, Mr. King, Mr. Heeney, and I, all mentioned the matter to him in private talks we had with him after the dinner. I was the third in this succession and found Mr. Barrington-Ward impressed to the point of surprise with the fact that we all had brought up the same subject. He, of course, is an understanding person in these matters and I think will go back to London convinced of the undesirability of loose talk in London on such matters. In the talk I had with him I recall a suggestion I made that if the TIMES could drive home to its readers that the old concept of "Imperial Defence" was completely unrealistic in present circumstances, and that even the words should now be abandoned in favour of something like "international defence", it would be

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