

109. *Le Premier ministre au premier ministre du Royaume-Uni*

Dear Mr. Lloyd George,

Paris, April 16, 1919

I enclose a copy of a telegram<sup>1</sup> which I sent on the 9th instant to the Acting Prime Minister at Ottawa, respecting the authority for the issuance of Full Powers to the Canadian Plenipotentiaries. We considered that Full Powers issued by the King should be based upon formal action by the Canadian Government; and accordingly the Order in Council proposed in the telegram has been passed.

A certified copy of the Order in Council will be sent from Ottawa to His Majesty's Government at London. When it reaches the Foreign Office some appropriate step should be taken to link it up with the Full Powers issued by the King to the Canadian Plenipotentiaries and with the papers connected therewith, in order that it may formally appear in the records that these Full Powers were issued on the responsibility of the Canadian Government.

Yours faithfully,

R.L. BORDEN

110. *Le Premier ministre au Premier ministre par intérim*

TELEGRAM X. 228

Paris, April 17, 1919

For Rowell. Your 275.<sup>2</sup> It is not practicable before signature to have full terms of treaties laid formally before Government of each nineteen States. Treaties will contain usual stipulations that ratifications are to be exchanged within a definite period. In all treaties signature is in effect provisional until ratifications have been so exchanged. In short the necessity of ratification enables each Government to examine fully the provisions of any treaty before effectively adhering thereto. The treaties will not be submitted to Parliament for ratification as that is an executive act. They should, however, be submitted to Parliament before ratification in order that Government may be advised and instructed as to desire of Parliament with respect thereto. If Parliament should be opposed to ratification of Peace Treaty or any of the ancillary treaties, the Government would necessarily be bound by Parliament's desire. Parliament is, of course, the only authority which can render operative any provisions of the various treaties requiring Legislative sanction to make them effective. We shall give careful attention to your suggestions as to publicity.

BORDEN

---

<sup>1</sup> Document n° 100.<sup>2</sup> Document n° 102.