

SECTION B

CEYLAN ET PAKISTAN
CEYLON AND PAKISTAN

6.

DEA/11493-A-40

*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État par intérim
aux Affaires extérieures**Memorandum by Acting Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs*

SECRET

[Ottawa], February 4, 1949

CANADIAN REPRESENTATION IN PAKISTAN AND CEYLON

Pakistan and Ceylon are the only member nations of the Commonwealth in which Canada is not represented by High Commissioners. The practice was developed early in the war of 1939–1945 of exchanging representatives between Canada and other nations of the Commonwealth in addition to the United Kingdom. We also exchanged High Commissioners with Ireland which cannot now be properly regarded as a member of the Commonwealth. This system of representation should probably now be completed by sending High Commissioners to Karachi and Colombo. The new Asian members of the Commonwealth are likely to be sensitive about the equality of their status within the Commonwealth and, sooner rather than later, may indicate their displeasure with the fact that Canada exchanges representatives with all the white members of the Commonwealth, including relatively small countries like South Africa and New Zealand as well as Ireland, which is not a member in good standing of the Commonwealth group, but has so far failed to send representatives to two of the new Eastern members of the Commonwealth.

Pakistan

2. It was agreed and announced on August 15, 1947, the date on which the new state of Pakistan came into existence, that the Governments of Canada and Pakistan would exchange High Commissioners "when this is administratively possible." The announcement went on to say that "as a preliminary step in this direction, it is expected that Trade Commissionerships will be established in each country in the near future."

3. An Acting Canadian Government Trade Commissioner arrived in Karachi on September 1, 1947 and has carried on his duties there since that date. A Trade Commissioner has not yet been sent to Canada by Pakistan. At the beginning of last December we learned that the Pakistan Government was taking steps to appoint a High Commissioner to Canada but up to the present there has been no word of an actual appointment.

4. The reasons that would justify the opening of a Canadian diplomatic mission in Karachi include the following: