

division of the field if a very senior Minister was appointed Secretary of State for External Affairs. If one of the abler, younger men were appointed to the post, these very limitations upon his responsibilities would facilitate the gradual development of a separate Ministerial Department of External Affairs without interfering, in any way, with the continuity of the main lines of Canadian policy. The load taken from your shoulders should be considerable, but it would not, in itself, be a full load for a first class man. A man becoming Secretary of State for External Affairs under these conditions should, therefore be available not only to carry a certain amount of Canadian representation at international conferences, but should also be able to carry a larger share of the general policy work of the Government than the head of a big administrative department could be expected to do.

N. A. R[OBERTSON]

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*Mémoire du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au Premier ministre*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Prime Minister*

SECRET AND PERSONAL

[Ottawa,] June 14, 1946

In present circumstances, our representation in Washington and London will probably depend on the decisions you take regarding the senior organization of the Department in Ottawa. If it should be decided to appoint a Minister, then I think Wrong or I could be assigned abroad, or both of us if it were thought desirable to bring Pearson back as Under-Secretary. Having in mind the job of work that has to be done in London during the next year or two, I am inclined to think that one of us three should be assigned there.

I have been thinking about the possibility of Wilgress for London, but feel that his best qualities are not those specially needed there now. He has shown himself in Moscow to be a wise and shrewd observer, and a first-class diplomatic reporter of conditions and attitudes of mind. In general, he is more effective on paper than in conversation. This would, I think, be a draw-back in London, where the urgent need is to have the general Canadian position in relation to the United Kingdom, the rest of the Commonwealth and the United States more clearly understood in policy making circles than it is now. On the other hand, if Pearson were to be sent to London and Wrong and I retained in Ottawa, then I think Wilgress should be considered as a possible replacement of Pearson in Washington.

(Some two or three months ago I wrote privately to Wilgress,† asking him what his personal preferences about future employment would be, on the assumption that a three-year term in Moscow was about as long as anybody could be expected to stay under present conditions. I have not a copy of his reply† with me, but my recollection is that his first choice would be that of