

2. In view of the announcement which you made this morning, indicating that in spite of your unceasing and persisting efforts for peace, the action and attitude of the German Government had resulted in the state of war developing between the United Kingdom and Germany, the Canadian Government, in addition to the defence and precautionary measures which it is taking under the War Measures Act and other administrative powers, will recommend to Parliament further action. The measures to be proposed are now under consideration.

3. As regards military activities our primary task will naturally be the defence of Canada, which under present circumstances is a more pressing and urgent undertaking than in the last war. We are also considering to what extent we could undertake as necessity required and our means permitted action in the Western Atlantic region, particularly in Newfoundland and the West Indies. As to further military cooperation, we should be glad to receive your appreciation of the probable theatre and character of main British and allied military operations, in order that we may consider the policy to be adopted by Canada.

4. We should also like to have your Government's present appreciation of the nature and extent of British and allied requirements as regards supplies and particularly the relative urgency of the needs for various commodities which Canadian producers could furnish. As regards munitions the despatch of the British Mission now on its way and the consultations which have already taken place should make it possible to reach prompt conclusions on detailed arrangements. Presumably the negotiations which have been taking place in the United Kingdom for the purchase of war materials and food stuffs will be completed and developed. The Canadian Government is considering what general measures of economic organization and control will be required in this country.

5. Independently of the arrangements that may be made by the United Kingdom or France for purchases of materials from producers in Canada the Canadian Government has in mind to propose to Parliament that it should undertake as one of the main elements of its war efforts to make available at our ports, as a gift to the people of the United Kingdom, 100,000,000 bushels of wheat or such portion of this amount as the United Kingdom may wish to import from Canadian sources in the period of hostilities during the current crop year. A similar proposal may be made as regards France.

1055.

Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au secrétaire aux Dominions
Secretary of State for External Affairs to Dominions Secretary

TELEGRAM 61

Ottawa, September 3, 1939

SECRET. Reference your secret telegram September 2 concerning German Government's request that Swiss Government take charge of German interests