

MC/FF 278722

## TELEGRAM

From THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA IN GREAT BRITAIN  
To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

CODE

LONDON. March 24th, 1941.

NO. 504

No. 504. Your telegram No. 219 of February 19th,<sup>13</sup>  
regarding proposal to send Canadian firemen to the  
United Kingdom.

United Kingdom Government feel need for trained  
personnel is pressing, and is anxious that it should  
still be found possible to make some other arrangements  
to enable Canadian firemen to come over for service  
in the United Kingdom.

At a meeting with the Home Secretary and Mr. Malcolm  
Macdonald, it was proposed that Mr. Macdonald should take  
the matter up with the Canadian Government on his  
arrival, on the understanding, mentioned in your telegram  
under reference, that the United Kingdom Government  
will assume responsibility for the organization, control  
and compensation of Canadian firemen. Mr. Macdonald  
has been furnished with memorandum containing possible  
basis for volunteer scheme for Canadian firemen, and  
authorities here most anxious that it should be given  
consideration. As regards pay, it is felt that pay  
issued to Canadian volunteers in the United Kingdom  
should not exceed pay normally issued to equivalent ranks  
of firemen in the United Kingdom. It is, however,  
realized that this may entail hardship, especially to  
firemen with family responsibilities in Canada, and it  
is hoped that means may be found to meet difference  
between United Kingdom and Canadian rates in pay and