

GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
OTTAWA

C190094

Office of the Principal  
Aide de Camp

September 13, 1945.

Dear Norman,

I am on leave of absence from Government House until December 1st, and then will be retired on pension. I wrote to the Prime Minister about it, so he has been informed, and I have had a very nice letter from him.

I hope you will press for a Canadian Secretary, as it is really very unfair to an unfortunate Englishman coming out here as Governor General to have another Englishman to advise him. It is almost a case of the blind leading the blind. Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander seems an excellent appointment and from all I can gather from the troops returning from Italy, he was very much loved, so he ought to have a good start in Canada. I would suggest someone from External Affairs or some officer in the Armed Services, and there should be lots of these available. You want someone with common sense, who knows how to get on with the public and the press. The press is most important. Edson Sherwood will take over from me. He will do splendidly and knows all the ropes, and will be very fair. I presume they will appoint another Canadian and two A.D.C.'s from England. The Comptroller ought to be English, as he has to handle English servants.

Norman Robertson, Esq.,  
Under Secretary of State for External Affairs,  
Ottawa.

P.T.O.