

the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, asking that the Belgian Ambassador should be advised that the Canadian Government were pleased to learn of the proposal to establish a Legation in Ottawa, and would be glad to receive Baron Silvercruys as the first Minister of Belgium to Canada. It was added that while the Belgian Government made no reference to reciprocal action by Canada, the Canadian Government wished to indicate that it did not contemplate providing for further diplomatic representation abroad at present.

On December 11th the Foreign Office conveyed the first part of the message to the Ambassador, but not the second part. Some question arose, into which it is not necessary to enter, as to the formal submission of Baron Silvercruys' name to His Majesty the King. When this point was dealt with on January 2nd, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was also requested, through the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom who had been asked to communicate with us on the subject, to send a further note to the Belgian Ambassador transmitting the second part of our telegram. This was done.

I should be glad if you would transmit such of this information as you consider necessary to the Baron de Cartier de Marchienne. I am sure he will see that far from desiring to cause any embarrassment to the Belgian Government, we made an exception to the policy we had decided upon simply in order to avoid the embarrassment that would have resulted from non-action, in view of the press having made public the fact that the Belgian Government had definitely raised the matter.

I am sure that if the subject arises in the Belgian Parliament, it will be possible to meet it by stating that the question of Canadian representation is under consideration.

Yours sincerely,

W. L. MACKENZIE KING

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Le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au ministre de Belgique
Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs to Belgian Minister

Ottawa, February 22, 1938

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Baron Silvercruys,

I am in receipt of your letter of February 21st,¹ advising that you have now been informed by Mr. Spaak that the measures as to the establishment of a Canadian Legation in Brussels which were discussed with you, will be favourably received. I should be obliged if you would express to Mr. Spaak the Canadian Government's appreciation of his reply.

As I informed you when you called at the Department yesterday, it will not be possible to make a definite decision until the Supplementary Estimates

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