

town, No. 25. My telegram of January 27th, Canada, No. 22,<sup>5</sup> New Zealand, No. 68, Union of South Africa, No. 23.

1. In connection with proposals put forward for consultation here on Ministerial level, we have also considered possible means of improving machinery for consultation below Ministerial level so as to ensure that every possible opportunity is given for such consultation at all stages before policy is finally settled.

2. With this in view, as regards *defence* questions, to agree that any Dominion Government which so desires should appoint a Service Liaison Officer or officers to keep in touch with Chiefs of Staff organization here. Such an arrangement would ensure that the Dominion representative in London would be informed of any plans that might affect the Dominion at an early stage before finality is reached, so as to afford an opportunity for expression of views while matter is still in a formative stage. It would be desirable that officer or officers should be of an appropriate rank, neither too junior nor too senior, and it is suggested that level of Colonel or Lieutenant Colonel in the army would be most suitable.

3. You will no doubt inform us if you wish for representation of this kind.

4. As regards foreign affairs, there is already machinery whereby special Dominion Officers appointed for the purpose can make contact with the Foreign Office. We are, however, examining machinery in the Foreign Office to see whether any improvement can be made to facilitate liaison of this kind.

5. As regards *supply* questions, see my telegram Circular D.39,<sup>6</sup> paragraph 2. The following are our proposals:—

(1) *Raw Materials.*

It is proposed to form a clearing-house here under a Ministerial chair, on which Dominions and India and the Colonies would be represented, to cover supplies from all the Empire and needs of all the Empire. This clearing-house will make it possible to present Empire position as a whole in Washington through Sir Clive Baillieu, the Ministry of Supply representative there.

(2) *Munitions Assignments.*

The Committee in London referred to in paragraph 3 of agreement<sup>7</sup> will consist of service representatives under Chairmanship of Lord Beaverbrook. It is proposed that Dominion Service Liaison Officers should be taken into consultation by this committee and its sub-Committees.

(3) *Shipping.*

It is proposed to continue and, as necessary, develop existing arrangements whereby shipping resources and needs of the Dominions are co-ordinated in London with our own.

6. There is also the question of allocation of *productive capacity*. It is proposed that a fairly senior United Kingdom officer, thoroughly conversant with machinery of defence and service Departments, should be appointed as a Liai-

<sup>5</sup> Document 815.

<sup>6</sup> Document 138.

<sup>7</sup> Voir le document précédent.

<sup>7</sup> See preceding document.