

C O P Y

OFFICE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA
DUBLIN

C194454

AIR MAIL
Most Secret

October 15, 1943.

Dear Mr. Robertson,-

I wrote you on March 29th last with respect to matters mentioned in a previous report of February 15th, 1943, which concerned the advisability of an approach being made to the Irish Government with regard to port and air facilities.

2. Since then, Mr. Gray, the American Minister to Ireland, paid an extended visit to the United States. On his return in September, Mr. Gray told me that the Government of the United States of America were concerned lest in the post-war period certain Irish elements in the United States of America would make trouble, and seek to inject a discordant note into American and British relations. If for no other reason than to forestall such an eventuality, Mr. Gray thought it advisable that the United States Government should request the Irish Government, not only for port and air facilities, but also to eject Axis representation from Ireland. In short, that Ireland should be asked to declare war on Germany. With this end in view, Mr. Gray prepared a memorandum setting out all that Germany had done to Ireland, and all that the United States of America had done for Ireland. It also reminded Ireland of how little Ireland had done for the United States of America in return. Although it contained some honeyed phrases, it was almost tantamount to an indictment.

3. It appears that Mr. Gray showed the memorandum to Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill on the latter's recent visit to the United States of America, and they both expressed some measure of approval, and sent it to the British Foreign Office in London for consideration and comment. The British Foreign Office asked Sir John Maffey, the British Representative in Ireland, for his reactions, and they were entirely unfavourable. Insofar as I can learn, the majority of the British Cabinet are not what one would term anti-Irish, whereas Mr. Churchill bears a resentment against Ireland which dates back to the failure of the Irish to implement and abide by the 1921 Treaty. I understand that at least the majority of the British Cabinet shares Sir John Maffey's views with respect to Mr. Gray's memorandum.

4. Sir John asked me for my observations on the memorandum. I pointed out to him that in making the suggestions which I did, and which appear in my communication to you of February 14th last, I had in the forefront of my mind the winning of the war, and not post-war relations between Great Britain and the United States of America, -