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*Mémorandum du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au Premier ministre*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Prime Minister*

[Ottawa,] June 1, 1943

You may be interested in looking through the attached despatch to our Minister at Kuibyshev.[†] It gives a full and useful account of the Ukrainian political organizations in Canada and their press affiliates. The position of the Ukrainian Nationalist organizations in Canada is becoming more delicate and more difficult as the war develops. Their historic feud with the Poles is in danger of becoming a row with the Russians, which is a more serious question.

The Ukrainian-Canadian Committee is arranging a national convention in Winnipeg towards the end of June, to which it has invited you and two or three members of the Cabinet. Under present conditions I doubt whether any Minister should accept such an invitation. However careful and correct his remarks, his presence at such a meeting would be construed as some kind of Canadian endorsement of Ukrainian nationalism, which has among its objectives the separation of the Ukraine from the U.S.S.R.

If you have read my letter to Grierson⁵⁰ of May 16th[†], you will see that the Government's contacts with the foreign language press and foreign language groups generally are pretty confused and unsatisfactory. I hope to get the War-time Information Board to straighten out the press side of the picture, but I am more worried about the possible mischief which may develop from the activities of the Foreign Groups Division of the Department of National War Services. Thorson⁵¹ and Judge Davis took a personal and informed interest in this work and were able to give it closer supervision than it has received recently. The work this section is trying to do is, I think, important for Canada, but I do not think they have quite the right men for the job; it is a difficult job in which the wrong men can do a good deal of mischief.

N. A. R[OBERTSON]

⁵⁰ Commissaire du gouvernement à la cinématographie, Office national du film, et directeur général, Commission d'information en temps de guerre.

⁵¹ Président, Cour de l'échiquier du Canada. Ministre des Services de guerre nationaux, 1941-42.

⁵⁰ Government Film Commissioner, National Film Board, and General Manager, Wartime Information Board.

⁵¹ President, Exchequer Court of Canada. Minister of National War Services, 1941-42.