

2. Sir Robert Borden drafted for further consideration the following resolution:

Provided further that the Representatives of the British Empire at any session of the annual meeting may be selected from a panel, upon which the Dominions and India shall be represented.

Provided further that the representation of the British Empire shall at all times accord with the development of constitutional relations between the self-governing Nations of the Empire.

Resolved that the secretary be instructed after consultation with Sir Robert Borden to submit for further discussion a formal resolution in the lines of the above draft.

3. The meeting was adjourned till further notice.

L. CURTIS
(Secretary)

28. *Governor General to Colonial Secretary*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM

Ottawa, January 15, 1919

Canadian Government would be glad if attention of Foreign Claims Department of Foreign Office could be drawn to the subject of enemy claims for damages against British subjects by persons in neutral countries for non-performance of contracts made illegal by the Statutory Lists. The International Petroleum Company, a Canadian corporation, is liable to claims by Sloman and Gildmeister of Chile for considerably more than one million dollars for failure to deliver oil under contracts after August 1917, the date of the Proclamation of Canadian Statutory List. The Chilean Courts in preliminary proceeding have refused to recognize Canadian Proclamation as a defence and have decided against the Company. Canadian Enemy Debts Committee have received information that courts of other South American countries have taken same position. The Committee is collecting information about other like cases in Canada. Committee know of similar claims against United States citizens (one very large) and assumes there are cases in United Kingdom. The Committee, after consideration, suggest an agreement with Germany and Austria at the Peace Conference that all such claims should be withdrawn on the analogy of the recommendation of the British Enemy Debts Committee as to claims under contract with persons of enemy countries. Such an agreement could be enforced against any claimant having assets or interests in Germany or Austria, as, Committee believe, many of these claimants have. When the claimant has no such assets or interests the agreement could no doubt be enforced by common diplomatic action.

United States Government are appointing Committee which will consider this subject among others. Canadian Committee suggest investigation of enemy cases and a discussion with the United States and Allies looking to a common policy at the Peace Conference.