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W.L.M.K./Vol. 242

*Mémoire du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au Premier ministre*⁵⁶

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Prime Minister*⁵⁶

[Ottawa,] September 12, 1943

RE MY LETTER TO WILGRESS OF SEPT. 8TH (COPY RETURNED)

Now that the United States Government is receiving Ambassadors from all the Latin American countries, irrespective of their size and importance, and has raised all its Latin American Legations to the rank of Embassies, the status of the Canadian Legation in Washington, as one of the larger and more important diplomatic missions of the United Nations, has become more anomalous in appearance at least.⁵⁷ If the situation in Washington alone is considered, there seem to be fairly compelling reasons for turning our Legation into an Embassy.

Apart from the altered rank of the missions of the smaller Latin American countries within the last two years, the United States Government, by agreement with the Allied European governments, has raised the status to Embassies of the Allied European Legations in Washington and has accredited Mr. Biddle as Ambassador to all the Governments in London. The Soviet Government and the United Kingdom Government have simultaneously raised the status of the missions they exchange with the smaller European Allies.

This has left a curious collection of countries which are represented in the principal capitals by Ministers only; Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa from the British Commonwealth, the few remaining European neutrals, Sweden, Switzerland and Portugal; Denmark; and a few other small states such as Iran and Iraq. These changes in the status of missions have reduced the importance — never large in recent years — of the distinction between Legations and Embassies.

The fact that the British Commonwealth is represented in Washington by one Ambassador and four Ministers, not to mention the Agent General for India who is shown on the Diplomatic List on the staff of the British Embassy with the rank of Minister, tends to create an impression that the British Ambassador is the leader of the flock who speaks on occasion for them all. This impression is strengthened by the fact that the United Kingdom Embassy, under war conditions, has no less than six Ministers on its staff — all given the rank of "Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary", i.e., the same as heads of Dominion missions. From the constitutional standpoint, I think that events have destroyed any validity that there may have been in the argument that the King could only be represented by one Ambassador in any country. This argument

⁵⁶Voir aussi le document 950.

⁵⁷Note marginale:

⁵⁶See also Document 950.

⁵⁷Marginal note:

I agree.