

cated in my telegram of the 12th December, Secret, Circular B. 211, referred to above, opportunity could be taken of making it clear that in any such further negotiations account would be taken of Dominions in relation to Treaties in question.

986.

*Le secrétaire, Haut commissariat, au secrétaire d'État
aux Affaires extérieures*

*Secretary, Office of High Commissioner, to Secretary of State
for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 25

London, February 19, 1930

High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa called yesterday Tuesday with telegram from his Prime Minister regarding the following matter:

In October last the British Government, in considering resumption of diplomatic relations with Russia, secured undertaking regarding propaganda by reaffirming pledge contained in Article 16 of Treaty of 1924 which was undertaking extended to the Dominions. Please see despatch from Skelton to the Prime Minister of the 11th October and reply of the same date. This undertaking was extended to the Dominions by Exchange of Notes Verbales of the 20th December and British Government were thus acting on behalf of themselves and the Dominions. In circular telegram B. 211, 21st December, British Government informed the Dominions of the intention to deal with the Treaties referred to in Treaty of 1924 in Convention with the Soviet Government, and enquired whether Dominions would wish such Treaties to be extended to them by adopting the same procedure previously done. South Africa takes the position that the procedure formally adopted by the Dominions regarding Article 16 was resort [result?] of Russian refusal to contract with them until relations were placed on regular footing and in view of importance regarding undertaking against propaganda their action was justified. Their Prime Minister now considers Treaties under discussion of so little importance that public interest does not demand resort to procedure which cannot enhance their status and intends to reply to the British Government in this sense. He wishes, however, to have views of our Government before taking such action. Understand Irish Free State concurs in views of South Africa. Requested to consider matter as urgent.

PACAUD