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ODS/ET
26 Sept. 1939BRITISH MINISTRY OF INFORMATION OFFICIAL IN CANADA

Sir Gerald Campbell referred today to the suggestion which he said had previously been discussed between Paul Mason and Norman Robertson. He wished to refer to it further.

The suggestion was that the British Ministry of Information should appoint one or two men in Canada, acting independently or preferably attached to the British High Commissioner's Office. In his phrase, they would be both a collecting and a distributing agency. In the first instance they would collect press and other indications of Canadian opinion and forward them to England for the information of the Government there. In the second place, they would furnish information to the press of Canada as to the British war effort and general policy.

I told him, as regards the first activity, it did not seem to present any question. It was a normal activity which presumably was already being carried out by his own office. The proposal to issue information to the press and public of Canada, however, was another matter. There might be a possibility of criticism and of confusion if information or propaganda were issued by a United Kingdom agency here. The Canadian Press was amply represented in the United Kingdom and could furnish any information publicly available in that country as to war developments or British policies. In any case the organization of a Canadian Information Board or Bureau had not yet been completed, and it would seem premature to raise the question at the present time. It would, however, be brought to the attention of the Prime Minister.

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