

TELEGRAM

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FROM: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, OTTAWA
TO: THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA, LONDON, ENGLAND.

Ottawa, February 15th, 1941.

No. 219

CODE

Your telegram No. 167 of January 28th regarding proposal to send Canadian firemen to the United Kingdom. Question has been further considered since return of Ministers of National Defence and Munitions and Supply and conclusion reached that, as Canadian war programme for the coming year has just been established on a basis of the estimated national capacity in men, money and materials, the Government would prefer not to assume responsibility for the organization of an auxiliary fire fighting force for use in the United Kingdom. If, however, the United Kingdom authorities felt the need was pressing, we would be prepared to give the matter further consideration on the understanding, however, that the United Kingdom Government would assume full responsibility for organization, control and compensation of fire fighting personnel, and that Canadian Government's undertaking would be confined to making known opportunities for voluntary enlistment with United Kingdom fire fighting services.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.