

## 2.

*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au ministre des États-Unis<sup>1</sup>*  
*Secretary of State for External Affairs to United States Minister<sup>1</sup>*

No. 8

Ottawa, January 20, 1936

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you, with profound regret, of the death of His late Most Gracious Majesty King George the Fifth.

I shall inform you of the accession of the new Sovereign.

I shall also inform you of the date of the funeral of His late Majesty and of the period of mourning which will be observed at Government House, Ottawa.

Accept etc.

O. D. SKELTON for the . . .

## 3.

*Mémorandum<sup>2</sup>**Memorandum<sup>2</sup>*

Ottawa, January 20, 1936

Attached are telegrams<sup>3</sup> regarding appointment of Counsellors of State. It will be noted that the Counsellors of State are drawn wholly from the Royal Family. On the last occasion in 1928, three were members of the Royal Family, the Queen, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, and the other three were the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Press called this morning and stated that a despatch from London indicates that a change has been made as a result of representations from a number of the dominions, including Canada, to the effect that the appointment of British Ministers as Counsellors was not consistent with the constitutional relationship. I stated that no representations on this subject had been made by the Canadian Government, though the present arrangement was more consistent with the constitutional position than the one of 1928.

I have no direct information, but I should not be surprised if the matter had been discussed privately during the Imperial Conference of 1930. The Secret report on the minutes of the meetings has the following paragraph regarding proceedings on November 10th, 1930:

The Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs raised the question of the procedure which might be followed should an emergency unfortunately arise similar to that in 1928, before there had been an opportunity for further discussion be-

<sup>1</sup> Envoyée aussi au ministre de France, au ministre du Japon.

Also sent to French Minister, Japanese Minister.

<sup>2</sup> O. D. Skelton au Premier ministre/O. D. Skelton to Prime Minister.

<sup>3</sup> Non reproduits/not printed.