

For King

C190093

SECRET
NAR/SR
14.9.45

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

I am enclosing copy of a personal letter I received today from Willis O'Connor.

I think he is probably right in suggesting that consideration be given to the appointment of a Canadian as Secretary to the Governor General, though it is not easy to think of anyone with the combination of negative and positive qualities which that rather ungrateful job requires. Willis suggests somebody from External Affairs or from the armed forces. The only one of our people whom I could see doing the job as it should be done would be Stone, but I do not think he can be spared for this kind of appointment. One man, whom I do not know but of whom I have heard that he might do such a job well, is Brigadier Elliott Rodger, who was, for a time, General McNaughton's personal assistant in England. He has a very good military record and is now, I believe, attached to the Joint Staff Mission in Washington.

I wonder whether you would think it appropriate to say something to the Minister of National Defence about promoting Willis a step to Brigadier on retiring. This is an old Army racket which, in principle, has nothing much to commend it and, in Willis' case, the difference between his pension as Colonel and his pension as Brigadier would mean very little to him. At the same time, it would be almost the only form of recognition you could give to good service over a long period of time in a job which, now and then, has been an ungrateful one.

Willis - decoration being

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