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*Le secrétaire aux Dominions au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*  
*Dominions Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 157

London, September 11, 1941

IMPORTANT. SECRET. My telegram of August 23rd, Circular M.259.<sup>1</sup> Trade with Japan. It would be most helpful if the Canadian Government could let us have as soon as possible their views on the general policy set out in my telegram of August 8th<sup>2</sup> and connected correspondence. Discussions are at present proceeding here with the Netherlands Government in regard to co-ordination of their policy with ours, and they are making enquiries as to position in Empire countries.

2. As regards imports, replies that we have so far received from Empire Governments suggest that imports are not likely to be needed on any substantial scale. Certain essential imports which are difficult to obtain from any other source may possibly be needed by the eastern Colonies, but in general we hope that throughout the Empire imports will be confined to exceptional items directly related to war effort, and that initiative in arranging for barter deals in respect of such imports will so far as possible be left to Japanese. We ourselves propose to take nothing from Japan for the time being, apart perhaps from small quantities of magnesium and one or two minor items (including agar and camphor) required for war purposes, but we are making no move even as regards these items and propose to await approach from Japanese.

3. Our information from Washington (see my telegram under reference) shows that the United States Government have in fact been so using their export and freezing restrictions as to obstruct all trade, with the result that for the time being at any rate no transactions are going forward.

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*Le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au haut commissariat*  
*de Grande-Bretagne*

*Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs to High Commission*  
*of Great Britain*

Ottawa, September 19, 1941

Sir,

I wish to refer to your communication (520/206) of August 25th,<sup>3</sup> enclosing the text of telegrams received from the Secretary of State for

<sup>1</sup> Non reproduit.<sup>1</sup> Not printed.<sup>2</sup> Document 1336.<sup>3</sup> Non reproduite.<sup>3</sup> Not printed.