

The basic lines that will follow in these matters will of course be embodied in the Royal Instructions upon the next occasion upon which they are revised. Meanwhile, it is thought that we should be able to deal with the New York consulate-general upon an ad hoc basis. (1)

This memorandum was given by Mr. Robertson to the Prime Minister to leave with the Governor General.

The appointment in 1940 of the first Canadian Consul, to Greenland, was, as has been indicated, made by a Commission of Assignment signed in London by the King. Curiously enough there does not appear in the files any review of the practice followed by other Dominions which already had their own Consuls-General abroad, such as possibly Australia, the Union of South Africa, or Ireland.

On February 22, the Deputy Minister of Justice, F.P. Varco, replied as follows:

The conduct of foreign affairs, which includes the appointment of ambassadors, diplomatic agents, and other officers, is a matter of royal prerogative. The question whether commissions may issue under the Great Seal of Canada depends upon whether this prerogative may be exercised by the Governor General of Canada instead of His Majesty personally, as has hitherto been the practice.

While the Governor General occupies the same position in relation to the administration of public affairs in Canada as is held by His Majesty the King in Great Britain, and may exercise the royal prerogative in so far as internal affairs are concerned, there is serious doubt whether the authority of the Governor General extends to the exercise of the royal prerogative in relation to foreign

(1) Ibid.