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to that. Much might depend on the wording of the communication sent in reply; also whether matters were kept secret or made public. I said that the matter might probably rest at that point and brought up again later on, in the event of something in the interval justifying that step. Hearne at once said that if time were granted in this way they might be able to gain an advantage. I said I thought he was altogether wrong in assuming that there was any intention of seeking to draw the Irish nation into the war; that my view was it would be much better to take the notes at their face value, not assume some sinister design. He said he thought Mr. De Valera would be much influenced by what I might say. I told him that I had given my view quite frankly. He then asked if he might say that I would like to be kept informed of any further developments and would I be willing to help in any way. I said that I had no desire of being drawn into the matter beyond that of trying to help to clarify the situation and, naturally, would be gratified receiving any word which the Irish Government would wish to send; but that I would not wish, so to speak, to attempt to intervene in a matter which was one between the government of the United States and the government of Eire, or the British government and the government of Eire. Hearne said he did not think the British government would pay attention to any other part of the Commonwealth other than Canada, that none of the others counted for much in their eyes.

I made no promise as to our taking any further step of any kind. That so far as the President was concerned, I was inclined to remove distrust as to movers behind the note and to the wisdom of having what had taken place kept secret. I did not see that if the notes were intended for purposes of anything by record it could be expected that they would be withdrawn.

Hearne was most profuse in his thanks. Said he would prepare something today, which he would show to Robertson before it was sent off so that nothing would be said in his message which would lead to misunderstanding of the position.

In speaking of the U.S. note, Hearne dwelt particularly upon the significance of the words: "an absolute minimum", and also the words: "that time is of extreme importance". I replied to the first by saying it had reference wholly to security, and to the second saying that, as he knew, we were on the eve of an invasion - how soon or how long