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United States Custom

The United States for over a century retained a tradition of republican simplicity and was represented abroad by ministers only. The subordinate rank of its ministers led to anomalies and inconveniences, and an Act of Congress of 1893 empowered the President to accredit ambassadors. In the last year or so the United States has followed the policy of raising to the status of embassies its offices in all the American republics and agreeing to a similar elevation in status of the offices of those countries in Washington. A similar policy has been followed with regard to Norway, Holland and other European allies. Until the present change, Canada was the only American country, and the only United Nation except Luxembourg and the other British Dominions, with a legation in Washington.

British Custom

The United Kingdom has maintained both embassies and legations abroad but has in recent years been raising many of ^{to} her legations to the rank of embassies. This policy applied particularly to the other United Nations. Some time after the outbreak of war the United Kingdom established a precedent by appointing a minister in addition to the ambassador in Washington, and there are now 6 (?) United Kingdom ministers in Washington. The United States has also appointed ^{to} ministers to her embassy in London.

Among the British countries Canada now has the second largest diplomatic corps. The South African and Irish Governments have had legations abroad for many years. Australia and New Zealand made their first ministerial appointments after the War began by establishing legations in Washington. Australia has since established legations in Moscow, Chungking, and for a time in Tokyo and established diplomatic relations with the Netherlands. Canada is the first British country, other than the United Kingdom to establish an embassy.