

19th February, 1939 C120629
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W4(K)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER:

Regarding Sir Francis Floud's intimation that the British Government proposed to issue an "informal inspired statement to the press" for publication on Saturday morning the 20th instant, giving the revised terms of the Coronation Oath, and saying that this form has been settled as the result of discussions between the Governments of the Commonwealth, and his request to be informed whether this course is agreeable to the Canadian Government, I assume there is no objection to an early announcement. It appears from recent press cables that some leakage has occurred, and that some ultra-Protestant circles in the United Kingdom are perturbed over rumours of a change.

Do you consider that a simultaneous informal inspired statement should be made here, or would two such inspirations be too much? If a statement is to be made, should the former Oath as well as the new one be given? And should it be indicated that the matter in which the Canadian Government was directly concerned was the revision of the first paragraph to bring it into closer correspondence with the agreed constitutional position?

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W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
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