

views on this subject and have no personal desire to be promoted to the position of Ambassador. In fact I am finding it difficult enough to discharge adequately my responsibilities as Minister. The only advantage I can see so far as this post is concerned is that such a step would help emphasize to the Soviet people our growing importance in world affairs and that we follow a foreign policy independent of that of the United Kingdom.

I have etc.

L. D. WILGROSS

112.

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*Le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au ministre en Union soviétique*

Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs to Minister in Soviet Union

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, September 8, 1943

Dear Dana [Wilgress],

I cannot comment officially on your despatch No. 85 of July 8th in which you report the raising to the rank of Embassies of the Mexican Mission in Russia and the Soviet Mission in Mexico. The current seems strongly set in favour sooner or later of the universal substitution of Ambassadors for Ministers. The United States Government has now exchanged Embassies with all Latin American countries and with all the Allied European countries. There only remains in Washington a curious collection of Legations made up of the Missions from the Dominions, those from the smaller European neutrals and those from the small Asiatic and African countries. We learned informally the other day that it was the intention of the State Department after the war to propose the exchange of ambassadors to all countries now represented in Washington by Ministers.

It has already been intimated to us informally on the highest authority⁵⁴ that there would be no objection in Washington to our raising our Legation to the rank of Embassy at any time. If this is done, it will clearly be desirable to take similar action in Moscow and in several other capitals, including the Latin American capitals, in which Canada is directly represented. No decision has yet been taken by the Government. If, however, it is correct to assume that envoys heading diplomatic missions will before long all be given the rank of Ambassador, there is something to be said for our taking action in advance of this development. The information given in your despatch about the situation in Russia is useful in helping a decision to be taken in Ottawa.⁵⁵

Yours sincerely,

N. A. ROBERTSON

⁵⁴Voir le document 114.

⁵⁴See Document 114.

⁵⁵La note suivante était écrite sur cette copie de la lettre:

⁵⁵The following note was written on this copy of the letter:

Will Mr. Robertson please speak to me of this. K[ING]