

Such a Minister would be accredited by His Majesty the King to the President of the Praesidium of the Supreme Council of the Union and he would be furnished with credentials which would enable him to take charge of all affairs relating to Canada. He would be the ordinary channel of communication with the U.S.S.R. Government on these matters. The arrangements proposed would not denote any departure from the principle of the diplomatic unity of the Empire, that is to say, the principle of consultative co-operation amongst all His Majesty's representatives as amongst His Majesty's Governments themselves, in matters of common concern. The methods of dealing with matters which may arise concerning more than one of His Majesty's Governments would therefore be settled by consultation between the representatives of His Majesty's Governments concerned.

In proposing the establishment of a Canadian Legation, His Majesty's Government in Canada trust that it will promote the maintenance and development of cordial relations, not only between the U.S.S.R. and Canada, but also between the U.S.S.R. and the whole British Commonwealth of Nations. End quote.

In advising the Government of the U.S.S.R. as stated above, it might be added informally that the Canadian Government assume that the Government of the U.S.S.R. will wish to reciprocate by establishing a Legation in Canada.

I am informing Mr. Massey of the above in order that he may advise Mr. Maisky informally of the steps now being taken.

64.

DEA/2462-40

*Le haut commissaire en Grande-Bretagne au  
secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*High Commissioner in Great Britain to  
Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 885

London, March 31, 1942

Your telegram No. 582 of March 24th<sup>†</sup>. Diplomatic relations with the U.S.S.R. Maisky states that he has received word from his Government that they welcome the decision of the Canadian Government and that they in turn have decided to establish diplomatic relations with Canada, and accordingly to appoint a Minister at Ottawa. They hope before long to communicate name of their Minister designate.

Under these changed circumstances Soviet Government have cancelled appointment of Mr. Yerofeyev as Consul General at Ottawa but they wish in addition to their Legation at Ottawa, to establish a Consulate at Halifax. They would be grateful to be informed whether Canadian Government approve of this arrangement.

MASSEY