

French-Canadian journal "L'Illustration Nouvelle", would establish this fact beyond any uncertainty. For the very reason, that no doubt can exist in this respect, I am convinced, Mr. Prime Minister, that your Government will not permit a plebiscite. On the contrary, I am convinced that your Government is resolved to embroil a whole people, against its will and unconsulted, in a terrible war, under the pretense of fighting for the freedom of mankind. You intend, Mr. Prime Minister, to have this resolve sanctioned by the Canadian Parliament. No one knows better than you, Mr. Prime Minister, that this Parliament, without the Government's resolve to war, would have been dissolved before now and has, to use the language of a French-Canadian newspaper, no mandate for a resolution of this kind. To support this view there is a highly significant fact, well-known throughout Canada, although at present somewhat overlooked in public discussion. It is the fact best known, I dare say, to yourself, Mr. Prime Minister, that you yourself, during the last federal elections, have unmistakably established as a plank in your election-platform the principle that this Dominion of Canada could not and ought not to, be engaged in war in far-away countries except in virtue of a previous plebiscite. If this principle determining the election of the present Parliament is to be brushed aside once it has served its electioneering purpose, would this not, Mr. Prime Minister, be a very outstanding instance of gross political deception? And would not the conclusion be justified that the Canadian battle on behalf of the freedom of mankind is to begin with a rape of the freedom of the Canadian people which, after all, is supposed to be that part of mankind which is nearest to the hearts of Canadians.

I have etc.

E. WINDELS

1063.

*Le Secrétaire général, la Société des Nations
au ministère des Affaires extérieures
Secretary-General, League of Nations
to Department of External Affairs*

TELEGRAM

Geneva, September 4, 1939

Have received following telegram from United Kingdom Government "In present circumstances it would be impossible for British delegation to reach Geneva for Council and Assembly on September eleventh. Other delegations are understood to be faced with the same problem and I would therefore suggest that you should in consultation with President of the Council inform all members that both meetings are postponed until the earliest date on which it can be arranged that delegations can attend Halifax."

Please telegraph whether you accept proposed adjournment assembly. If adjournment accepted by majority shall consult President Assembly regarding new date session.

AVENOL