

ascertain confidentially whether the one preferred would be ready to accept the appointment before making a formal submission to His Majesty.

W. L. MACKENZIE KING
Prime Minister

6. DEA/196s

Le secrétaire privé du Roi au Premier ministre
Private Secretary to the King to Prime Minister

TELEGRAM London, July 23, 1945

IMMEDIATE. TOP SECRET AND STRICTLY PERSONAL. July 23rd.

I have laid before The King your telegram of July 21st which His Majesty much appreciates.

1. Airlie is an old personal friend of His Majesty for whom he has a great regard. He has, however, many commitments in Scotland, both public and private, from which he would at present almost certainly find it very difficult to extricate himself.

2. On the other hand, Alexander, whom The King also knows well and much admires, is relatively free. Apart from his genius as a soldier, he has shown himself to be possessed in a high degree of qualities necessary to a good Governor General. He has already won the affection and respect of thousands of Canadians whom he has commanded in the field, and his wife is in every way admirably fitted to be a Governor General's wife.

3. At the moment Alexander is one of the most eminent of the King's subjects, justly famous throughout the world. It would give His Majesty great satisfaction to recognize the magnificent contribution to victory made by Canadians in battle and at home by sending such a man to represent him in Canada.

4. Since, therefore, you have asked The King to indicate his preference, His Majesty has no hesitation in giving it to Alexander.

5. The King would be grateful if, as you suggest, you would ascertain confidentially whether Alexander is ready to accept the appointment.

LASCELLES

7. DEA/196s

Le Premier ministre au secrétaire privé du Roi
Prime Minister to Private Secretary to the King

TELEGRAM Ottawa, July 24, 1945

TOP SECRET AND STRICTLY PERSONAL. I am very glad to receive your telegram of July 23rd and the expression of His Majesty's views which it contained.