

What I had in mind was this. The French Government today is apparently under the domination of the German Government, and there must be communications passing from the French representative here to the French Government in France, which communications must be available to the German Government. Is there any control over the communications that pass from the French representative in this country to the French Government? Is the French representative free to send any communication he likes, which would be available to the German Government?

Mr. King replied:

If there were the slightest reason to believe that the present French representative was able to obtain any information that is not common information, that might be of the least help to the German Government, I imagine he would not himself wish to stay for an hour, and certainly this government would not permit him to stay. But I have every reason to believe that M. Ristelhuber, the present Minister, is a very honourable man and certainly in his relation to the administration with respect to the different and difficult questions which have come up he has given us every reason to believe that his sole desire is similar to our own, namely, in the existing very painful situation to do all he can to help relieve difficulties rather than add to them. (1)

Belgium

Shortly before the Second War, in fact as early as 1937, Belgium had expressed a desire to establish a Legation in Canada, and negotiations led to a reciprocal agreement.

The first Belgian Minister to Canada, Baron Silvercruys, presented his Letters of Credence on January 11, 1937, more than two years before Canada took reciprocal action in Brussels.

The first residence was that of the Belgian Consul General, Mr. Maurice Goor, who later went to Ireland as Belgian Ambassador, and decided to spend the rest of

(1) H. of C. Debates, August 6, 1940. pp.2531-2.