

## SECTION J

ITALIE

ITALY

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*Le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

Ottawa, January 17, 1947

On January 10 the Italian Representative called to see me and stated that on the signing of the Peace Treaty with Italy in February the Italian Government would like to establish formal diplomatic relations with this country. They hoped that we would, in due course, be able to take similar action. I told Count di Cossato that we could appreciate their desire in this matter, and that if an Italian Legation were established here we would no doubt wish to be represented diplomatically in Rome.

2. Count di Cossato said that his Government also wished to open certain consular offices in Canada as soon as possible, even before the signing of the Peace Treaty. They would desire to open only Vice Consulates in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, cities with comparatively large Italian populations, and five or six consular agencies in other Canadian cities where there are Italian communities.

3. In 1939 Italy had consular offices or agencies in eleven Canadian cities: Fort William, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec, Saint John, Sudbury, Sydney, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg; only the Consul-General and Vice-Consul in Ottawa, the Consul in Montreal, and the Vice-Consul in Toronto were career officers.

4. At present Italy has only the Office of the Representative in Ottawa. The Representative holds the personal rank of Consul-General; his First and Second Assistant Representatives have the personal rank of Vice-Consul.

5. I think that once our relations with Italy are legally established on a peaceful basis we should agree to reciprocal diplomatic representation, but I see no reason for opening consular offices before the signing of the Peace Treaty, or indeed for any particular haste in the matter. We shall presumably be in no hurry to establish consulates in Italy. There has been no immigration from Italy since the war, and our Italian communities now consist of people who have already passed through the more difficult stages of adjustment to a new environment. It will probably be some time yet before Italian shipping is very considerable.

6. Aside from the time factor, however, there are arguments both for and against the opening of a large number of consular offices. Much depends, of course, on the character of the Government represented and of the representative selected. Good consuls from democratic countries can do a great deal to raise the morale of the immigrant, to ease the strain of adjustment to new conditions, and to keep him