

Apr 30 : from Lascelles :
"Ask Willis to reconsider"

COPY OF CYPHER TELEGRAM

C190092

FROM: Redfern, Government House, Ottawa.

TO: Lascelles, Buckingham Palace, London, England.

May 1st 1940

Willis regrets that in no circumstances would he withdraw condition of his acceptance. My own view is as follows: it is of primary importance to secure services of Willis at present juncture. Circumstances are such that I do not consider his attitude as regards seniority unreasonable. With slight readjustment of duties functions of Principal Aide-de-Camp and Comptroller would not clash and question of seniority would rarely arise. On Balance I would recommend Lord Athlone appoint Willis on condition that his seniority next to Secretary should be personal to Willis and not create precedent for any other senior Aide-de-Camp to take such seniority. I would change title from Senior Aide-de-Camp to Principal Aide-de-Camp and suppress this title when Willis retires.

(sgd) Redfern