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S E C R E T

Ottawa, March 15, 1945

Dear Lord Reith:

I regret that my enforced absence from Ottawa has prevented me from participating in the conversations with you and your colleagues concerning the re-organization of the Commonwealth telecommunications services.

Based upon the discussions which my colleagues have had with your Mission, and upon their examination in the Cabinet, I think I might describe the position of the Canadian government as follows:

As we informed the United Kingdom High Commissioner in Canada, in our letter of March 2nd, we are prepared to create a publicly-owned company in Canada, to operate external communications and to co-operate with Commonwealth and other telecommunications bodies. We would, of course, assume full financial responsibility for this company.

As a consequence of the information given to us by you in these discussions, we are also prepared to co-operate in the creation of a Commonwealth body on the lines suggested in the Canberra paper, but with the modifications proposed by Field Marshal Smuts in his letter to you of 5th March, 1945, which makes it clear that the central body shall be consultative.

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