

formed of the fact, which most of them know already, that I was Canadian Minister to France before and during the war and that it was the intention of the Canadian Government to give me my old appointment as soon as this was feasible. I, for my part, would be only too pleased to carry the message, with a word of explanation, to each one of the Foreign Ministers.

If you did not wish to appoint another Minister immediately to the Allied Governments, you might appoint a Chargé d'Affaires as you did for so long to Belgium and to Holland.

The drafting of this self-plea is most distasteful but I have forced myself to the unpleasant task because I feel very deeply that my place is in North Africa and later in France where, with Pauline, I may be able to help in a humble way in its rehabilitation. As I said in my letter of the 29th May, France will require the sympathetic and understanding assistance of all her friends.

Please forgive me for the vanity of adding that many of the members of the French Committee have been known to me for several years, some since the Geneva days of 1930, and I feel that it would be possible to give good service to Canada as well as to France.

If you feel so inclined you may show this letter to the Prime Minister. I would like him to know, in any event, how deeply I feel about representing Canada in North Africa, and later in France.

Yours ever,

GEORGE [VANIER]

45.

DEA/1-Fs

*Mémoire du sous-secrétaire d'État adjoint aux Affaires extérieures¹⁵
au Premier ministre¹⁶*

*Memorandum from Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs¹⁵
to Prime Minister¹⁶*

Ottawa, October 5, 1943

I submitted Vanier's name this morning to Major Bonneau, so that he could secure the agreement of the French Committee of Liberation.¹⁷ He expressed considerable gratification over his selection. I sent you recently a note[†] of a talk with him last week, in which he had passed on to me a suggestion from the Committee of Liberation that it would not be welcome to them if persons who had been associated in any way with the Vichy government were appointed as foreign representatives in Algiers. Of course Vanier meets their views completely on this point.

¹⁵H. H. Wrong.

¹⁶Voir aussi les documents 1424 et 1438.

¹⁷Voir le document 4.

¹⁶See also Documents 1424 and 1438.

¹⁷See Document 4.