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FROM: THE RIGHT HON. THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, OTTAWA
TO: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING, WINDSOR CASTLE;

MOST SECRET

Cypher No.

Ottawa, March 29, 1940

Following for His Majesty the King, Begins:

Sir:

I present my humble duty to Your Majesty.

I have the honour to recommend, for Your Majesty's consideration, the appointment of The Right Honourable The Earl of Athlone as Governor General of Canada.

In submitting The Earl of Athlone's name, I need scarcely say that I have weighed with the utmost care the many considerations of which I feel full account should be taken in so important an appointment as that of Your Majesty's representative in Canada especially at this exceedingly critical time in the affairs of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and, indeed, of the world itself.

I realize that for Lord Athlone to leave England at this time in order to assume the responsibilities of the high office of Your Majesty's representative in Canada may occasion not a little in the way of personal sacrifice to Your Majesties as well as to other members of the Royal Family. Especially might this be true of Her Majesty Queen Mary and Her Royal Highness The Princess Alice. I am sure, however, that unless the difficulties which may present themselves are all but insuperable, they will be outweighed by the exceptional service which could be rendered the Crown and Canada by the residence