

as to whether this would not be equivalent to a declaration of war against Germany. I said, far from it; that the breaking off of diplomatic relations did not necessarily mean a declaration of war. They might be broken off for different purposes. Hearne said he knew there were distinctions in text books on the matter, but he did not know that actions would be so viewed by other countries when taken. C194481

I again stressed the point that if there had been some far-reaching policy already worked out on this matter our government would certainly have received some intimation of the need and reasons for it. I would have expected that we would have been informed of these matters through the British Government. I did not feel that we would necessarily be informed by the U.S. Government, but certainly we had not been informed of anything of the kind by either of them.

Hearne next brought up what had taken place with our High Commissioner, Mr. Kearney. I told Hearne I thought Kearney had viewed the matter correctly and had expressed what was in accord with our view. I did not think that Canada would be justified in asking for a withdrawal of the notes. He asked me if he could say to Mr. De Valera that I did not think there was a far-reaching policy back of the presentation of the notes. I said certainly he could give that as my view, and also that I felt it would be unwise to have publicity given to the notes - unwise alike for all parties concerned.

Before Hearne left, I enlarged on this, pointing out that one never knew what conditions might result from disclosures, and that one could take it as a general rule that what a man was able to prevent of ill in public affairs was almost certain, in the long run, to be much more important than anything which he might be able to accomplish. I cited to Hearne, as a case in point, the attitude of our government towards disclosure on the McNaughton matter. I said we would like to make disclosures, but who could say what consequences might result therefrom. For that reason we were content to let the record lie and speak for itself later on.

Hearne repeated several times that while he was quite prepared to give assurances that his government was equal to preventing any kind of espionage and would see that it was effectively prevented. He came back to the question as to what would happen if they replied refusing what had been proposed. I said I could not of course say anything as

4.