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*L'ambassadeur aux États-Unis au secrétaire d'État  
aux Affaires extérieures*

*Ambassador in United States to Secretary of State  
for External Affairs*

TELETYPE WA-2964

Washington, June 7, 1945

IMMEDIATE. Following for Dr. G. S. H. Barton, Deputy Minister, Department of Agriculture, and H. F. Angus, External Affairs, from Paterson, Begins: With reference to our telephone discussions this morning regarding the London Conference to be held on June 12th and 13th, I am quoting herewith in full a letter which I have just received from Hutton, Head of the British Food Mission, confirming his telephone call to me last night and my outline of the position to you this morning:

“Last night I telephoned you to inform you that the Ministers of Food and the Ministers of Agriculture of a number of European countries have been invited to attend a Conference to be held in London on June 12th. The invitations were sent to the Belgian, French Provisional, Netherlands, Norwegian, Danish and Luxembourg Governments, and subsequently (with slightly different wording) to the Greek, Yugoslav, Czech and Russian Governments.

The purpose of the Conference, which it is believed will take not more than two days, is to impress upon the representatives of European Governments the extreme gravity of the international food situation and the imperative necessity that each European country should do all within its power to mobilize its own food supplies and thus to reduce its import requirements.

I have been asked by the Minister of Food to inform you of this meeting and to suggest to you that the presence of a Canadian representative at the London meeting would be most welcome.

I must here insert an official apology for the very short notice in advising you of this meeting. I realize that it will be a matter of very great difficulty for the Canadian Government to send a representative to London in time for the meeting, should the Canadian Government decide that it would wish to be represented. It is not, of course, for me to make any suggestions as to who might represent your Government, but it may not be improper for me to state that the presence of Dr. Barton at the London meeting would be most welcome to the Minister of Food. I realize, however, that Dr. Barton is a busy man, and that he probably cannot be spared from Ottawa at this moment. It might be that you yourself would be able to go to London for a very brief visit. Your knowledge of both of the Canadian and American food situation and the fact that you were present at the recent tripartite discussions constitutes, of course, a most valuable background.

I should add that the United States Government has been invited to send a representative to the meeting also.