

ask your immediate attention and co-operation. I took occasion of Clemenceau's visit to endeavour to again reach settlement of the difficult question of respective shares of France and British Empire in German reparation payments. You will remember that in Paris we offered to accept proportionately, France two, British Empire one, but this was refused by the French. After prolonged and difficult negotiation we have now agreed to recommend for your acceptance proportion France eleven, British Empire five. This is less than we think we are entitled to, but I am bound to say that French made strong case for even larger share, destruction of property in France proving even greater and more costly to replace than was expected.

Difference in amount receivable by us not very large and His Majesty's Government feel failure to reach settlement in advance of meetings of Reparation Commission would involve French and British delegates in constant criticism of each others claims and render harmonious working of Commission in face of Germans almost impossible. Friendly settlement between two countries, leading as we hope to similar arrangements with other Allies appears to His Majesty's Government so important as to justify slight alteration in terms we proposed in Paris and His Majesty's Government and I earnestly hope that you will concur in arrangement now proposed.

A very early reply is solicited. Most important terms should not be allowed to leak out before British and French delegates have completed negotiations with other Powers. Ends.

197. *Le Gouverneur général au secrétaire aux Colonies*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM

Ottawa, December 19, 1919

MOST SECRET. URGENT. Following from my Prime Minister for Prime Minister. We concur that the proportion France eleven and British Empire five in distribution of German reparation payments should be accepted and we agree with the proposed arrangement.

198. *Le Premier ministre au haut commissaire au Royaume-Uni*

TELEGRAM B. 271

Ottawa, December 26, 1919

Your P. 474. We have concluded to postpone decision as to signature Air Convention. Meanwhile we are ascertaining position of United States Government respecting signature and ratification of the Convention and respecting possibility of a special arrangement between Canada and United States. This delay need cause no difficulty since the Convention itself expressly provides that it may be signed at any time up to 12th April, 1920.

BORDEN