

C191484

MEMORANDUM for the Prime Minister:

Mr. Victor Podoski telephoned to say that the Polish Government are planning to award their highest decoration for gallantry to a Canadian Naval Officer.

As this is the first time in history that the Polish Government have arranged to confer such an award on anyone other than a Pole, Mr. Podoski believes that such a ceremony would mark another step in the significant expressions of international good will, and particularly in relations between Poland and Canada.

The Officer chosen to receive this decoration is Commander Horatio Nelson Lay. Mr. Podoski felt the Prime Minister might have special interest in learning that his own nephew is to be the first person outside Poland to receive the award. The presentation will be made at a simple ceremony on Monday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at the Polish Consulate, 333 Chapel Street.

<sup>Vice</sup>  
~~Rear~~-Admiral Nelles and other high officers of the Royal Canadian Navy are expected to attend this ceremony. Mr. Podoski would be very happy and additionally honoured if the Prime Minister felt interested in attending the presentation ceremony.

DR

December 20, 1941