

Nevertheless, while the war increased the Department's paperwork dramatically, its functions remained circumscribed as Ottawa hesitated to expand Canada's diplomatic presence. The Canadian War Mission in Washington, which had opened in 1918 to deal with supply matters, was unceremoniously

closed in 1921. While the government considered replacing the War Mission by appointing a Canadian minister to the British Embassy, Borden did not act, and his successor, the imperially minded Arthur Meighen, opposed the idea. Greater diplomatic activity would have to wait.



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¹⁰ Prime Minister Robert Borden (seated fourth from left) at the 1917 Imperial War Conference in London. Canadian sacrifices during the First World War drove Borden to seek greater control over Canada's foreign policy. (Source: Library and Archives Canada, C-000241)