

for putting forward a suggestion that an exchange of ministers rather than of consuls should be considered. So far as Canada is concerned, our interest is fundamentally to obtain all possible information regarding the Russian conduct of the war and the nature of Russia's views on reconstruction in the post-war period. Questions of present and post-war trade will be important, as will independent accounts of political conditions and developments within Russia itself. For this reason it is important that Canadian representation in Russia should be on the same level as the representation of the United Kingdom, the United States and other Allied countries. Further, there is evidence that the general public would find it extremely difficult to understand why our representation in Russia should take the same form as our representation in Greenland and St. Pierre.

4. Conversely, there is every reason to believe that following the recent establishment of direct diplomatic relations with Poland, Norway and Yugoslavia, and the elevation to ministerial rank of the former Consuls General of these three countries, Russia, one of our strongest and most powerful Allies would welcome the opportunity of modifying the Agreement of February 5th in order to provide for a diplomatic rather than consular exchange.

5. There are, therefore, two possible courses of action:

- (1) to raise the question of an exchange of ministers with Russia; and
- (2) to leave the question of such an exchange for the moment and to proceed at once with the appointment of a Consul General.

N. A. R[OBERTSON]

63.

DEA/2462-40

*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au secrétaire aux Dominions*  
*Secretary of State for External Affairs to Dominions Secretary*

TELEGRAM 78

Ottawa, March 15, 1942

As you may be aware, His Majesty's Government in Canada and the Government of the U.S.S.R., as a result of negotiations between the Canadian High Commissioner and the representative of the U.S.S.R. in London, signed an Agreement recently concerning the exchange of consular representatives. We have come to the conclusion that it is desirable to proceed to the establishment of a Canadian Legation in the U.S.S.R. on a reciprocal basis.

It is requested that the wishes of the Canadian Government be submitted for His Majesty's approval.

When His Majesty's approval has been received, it is requested that the Government of the U.S.S.R. be advised as follows: Quote

His Majesty's Government in Canada have come to the conclusion that it is desirable that the handling of matters in the U.S.S.R. relating to Canada should be confided to an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary accredited to the Government of the U.S.S.R.