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APPENDIX

Confidential Memorandum for the Prime Minister, touching  
the administration of the Department of External Affairs

This Department was erected by Statute in 1909 (8 & 9 Ed.VII. c. 13).

On the 1st June of that year a Minute of Council was passed outlining its functions. This Minute was originally framed on the expectation that the Department would be presided over by the Prime Minister. The subsequent change of policy in this respect was the main reason for avoiding too precise definition of the terms of this Minute, until sufficient time had elapsed to indicate how the new arrangement would work. The reversion to the original plan of placing the Department under the Prime Minister, together with the experience acquired during the past three years, render expedient - nay, necessary - a revision of the terms of this Order in Council.

The establishment of a second Secretaryship of State naturally gave rise to some confusion at the time, which was heightened by the circumstance that both departments were presided over by the same Minister.

Upon the constitution of the Department of External Affairs, it was inevitable that certain duties, which in the past had been discharged by other departments, should be taken over by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. This was especially the case as regards the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada, which sustained the loss of certain functions hitherto discharged by it. Consular matters were transferred by Statute. The issue of passports went as a matter of course. Beyond these, however, there has been no authoritative division of functions between the two secretariats, and some friction in consequence has arisen which it is not in the public interest should continue. The undersigned is of opinion that the time has arrived when there should be, as contemplated by Section 5 of the constituting Act, a specific allocation of powers to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and in particular that the functions of his Department and those of the Secretary of State of Canada should be clearly differentiated.

With special reference to the relations between these two Departments, he desires to offer the following suggestions:

1. The existing Minute of the 1st June, 1909, provides that all despatches which the Governor-General desires to communicate to his Ministers shall be sent in the first instance to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who shall deal with them in a prescribed manner. Among these despatches are those involving communication with the Provinces. By a Minute