

of Great Britain on the Commission should be advised by a Committee in London containing representatives of the various Departments of His Majesty's Government which are concerned. It is not possible to constitute this Committee formally, pending the ratification of the Peace Treaty and the appointment of the Delegate of Great Britain on the Reparation Commission, but His Majesty's Government are anxious that the Governments of the self-governing Dominions should be associated with the Committee's work and accordingly when the Committee is formally established, it is proposed to ask your Government to nominate a representative to serve on it.

3. I will inform you by telegraph as soon as the Committee can be constituted; in the meantime your Ministers may wish to consider whom they desire to nominate as representative of the Canadian Government.¹

I have etc.

MILNER

164. *Le secrétaire aux Colonies au Gouverneur général*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM

London, August 12, 1919

URGENT. SECRET. Re your cypher telegram of August 4th. The Government of Union of South Africa has convened special session of Parliament to consider Peace Treaty with Germany. They are of opinion that it will be very desirable to secure uniformity in dealing with this question, and have asked me to submit suggestions as to form in which Peace Treaty should receive in Dominions Parliamentary approval, that is whether motion should be submitted to Parliament for that purpose, or whether approval should take form of bill on lines of that submitted to Parliament here. I have answered to the effect that matter is, of course, one for decision of local Government, but that best course, in my opinion, would be to obtain approval of Treaty by resolution of both Houses and that if, as is probable, legislation on lines of British bill is required in order to give effect to Treaty, this could follow later.

British bill, it is important to bear in mind, is not a bill to ratify Treaty, but to empower the Government to take necessary steps to carry out those provisions of Treaty which require legislative authority.

Paris is putting severe pressure upon us to ratify at the earliest possible date, and ratification by the French expected September 2nd or 3rd.

I should be grateful if you will inform me what procedure will be adopted by your Government. My reason for suggesting resolution of both Houses is that this procedure might enable ratification to take place without the delay that might be involved in obtaining parliamentary power for carrying out Treaty.

¹ Sir George Perley a été nommé.