

copies of the text of the Bill for the information of the United Kingdom Government. These copies are enclosed. There will be a few changes in drafting which will not affect the substantive provisions of the Bill so that it is likely that this text will indicate the nature of the measure which will be introduced in the House of Commons.

In transmitting these prints to the United Kingdom authorities for information, it is desired that you should let them know that it will probably not be possible to defer the introduction of the Bill in the House of Commons owing to the exigencies of the Parliamentary program. The Secretary of State has intimated that he would be very glad indeed to have any observations which the United Kingdom Government may desire to make before the Bill is considered in Committee. In view of the shortness of time, you might send any observations which may be made by telegram.

In bringing the provisions of the Bill to the attention of the United Kingdom authorities, you might refer to Part IV dealing with Status of Canadian Citizens and Recognition of British Subjects, including Section 24, 25, and 26.

The United Kingdom authorities will undoubtedly agree that the Bill in its present form adequately protects all of the positions which have been the subject of discussion among the governments of the British Commonwealth from time to time.

I have etc.

J. E. READ

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*Le sous-secrétaire d'État par intérim aux Affaires extérieures
au haut commissaire en Grande-Bretagne*

*Acting Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to High Commissioner in Great Britain*

Ottawa, October 18, 1945

Dear Norman [Robertson] —

You will have seen the telegrams between Canada House and External Affairs concerning the draft Citizenship Bill indicating that there is some likelihood of the United Kingdom authorities making some representations on the Bill. The Secretary of State is concerned about the matter as it is planned to introduce the Bill in the House not later than Monday next. There would be no difficulty in meeting suggestions for minor amendments, but it would be most embarrassing to back away from the main principles of the Bill, bearing in mind the speech from the Throne.

Mr. Martin took the matter up with his colleagues in Cabinet and they are of the opinion that they should go ahead in Parliament and put the Bill through, even although there may be reasonably strong opposition from the United Kingdom authorities. They will be prepared to consider amendments designed to make the legislation more workable, but there seems to be no doubt