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DEA/5930-40

*Le secrétaire adjoint du Gouverneur général au
sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Assistant Secretary to Governor General to
Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

Ottawa, November 10, 1943

Dear Robertson,

Referring to your letter to Redfern of the 8th instant[†], concerning the recommendation of the Prime Minister that the Governor General make informal submission to The King, seeking His Majesty's approval for the policy of raising Canadian Ministers to the rank of Ambassador, I desire to inform you that a cablegram has been received to-day from the Private Secretary to the King, informing us that His Majesty is pleased to give his informal approval. This confirms my telephone message to you at 1.00 p.m. to-day.

Yours sincerely,

F. L. C. PEREIRA

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PCO

Extrait du procès-verbal du Comité de guerre du Cabinet

Extract from Minutes of Cabinet War Committee

SECRET

Ottawa, November 10, 1943

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CANADIAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION; LEGATIONS; EMBASSIES

1. THE PRIME MINISTER submitted a recommendation to Council for authorization of recommendations to the King for raising the status of any Canadian Minister abroad to that of ambassador.

The particular case of Washington had been discussed with the U.K. Prime Minister, who had seen no objection. President Roosevelt favoured such a step in respect of Canadian representation in the United States and wished to raise the U.S. Legation in Ottawa to an embassy. Accordingly, a recommendation in this respect had been made to the King and approved. This change would give appropriate recognition to Canada's importance in Washington, and it was planned to announce it the following day.

Approval of the policy of taking similar steps in relation to other nations was desirable for the better representation of Canadian interests abroad, in accordance with the growing importance of Canadian participation in international affairs. Subject to the views of the government concerned, it would probably be advisable, in the near future, for the Canadian Ministers in the U.S.S.R., China and Brazil to be given similar rank. Consideration would also have to be given, at a later date, to similar action with regard to Belgium and Holland.