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J.A.Gibson/IH  
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNDER-SECRETARY

German Settlement: Procedure for associating Commonwealth Nations, &c

I have read to the Prime Minister excerpts from Mr. Robertson's telegram No. 350 of February 28, particularly para. 6 on Dr. Evatt's proposal.

Mr. King makes two main points:

- 1) He feels strongly that the High Commissioner for Canada ought not to be put into a position where it is assumed that he is, as it were, a member of the Canadian Cabinet competent to give decisions at the Ministerial level. He ought (says Mr. King) to resist any attempt to "drag him back" into a situation in which the Government of any nation of the Commonwealth outside the United Kingdom appears to become responsible in any degree or particular for a policy which is evidently a United Kingdom policy. (I gather that Mr. King has in mind the difference between the office of High Commissioner for Canada today and what it was, say, when Sir George Perley was High Commissioner.)
- 2) It is one thing to exchange information; it is quite another to be asked to derogate independent action to any sort of "Commonwealth" spokesman, which in Mr. King's view is quite impossible. He (Mr. King) says he is "dead opposed" to anything which would give or appear to give Canada responsibility for the policy of any part of the Commonwealth outside of Canada.