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TELEGRAM

From The Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs
To The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Canada

MOST IMMEDIATE

London, December 16th, 1944

SECRET AND PERSONAL

CYPHER

NO. 217

No. 217. Secret and Personal. Following for the
Prime Minister from the Prime Minister, Begins:

Your telegram No. 239.

1. I was surprised and grieved at the suggestion that you might find it necessary to issue a public statement that Canadian troops shall not be used in Greece. Such a statement could only increase our difficulties and postpone a settlement of the present troubles in that country. It would be generally regarded throughout the world as a dissociation of Canada from the policy of His Majesty's Government and a marked reflection on our credit and honour. We went into Greece at the invitation of the Greek Prime Minister and with the knowledge of a Greek Government composed of all parties including E.A.M. and Communists. We went in with the approval of the United States and the assent of Russia to bring to the Greek people food and order. We cannot abandon this task without loss and a blow to British prestige. It is on such occasions as this that the British Commonwealth should stand together.

2. We have never in fact had any intention of proposing that Canadian troops should be sent to Greece. Specific orders to this effect have been sent to Field Marshal Alexander and your mind may, therefore, be quite at ease on that point. But

*copies all in Council
Greece
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