

C194472

NAR/SR
25.2.44

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Garner, who is in charge of Earncliffe in Mr. Malcolm MacDonald's absence and Sir Patrick Duff's illness, called at the Department this morning with a message he had received from Lord Cranborne about the notes presented by the United Kingdom and United States representatives in Dublin, asking Mr. De Valera to bring about the withdrawal of the Axis diplomatic representatives from Ireland. The United Kingdom Government had learned from Sir John Maffey that Mr. De Valera had asked the Canadian Government if it would approach the United Kingdom and United States Governments with a view to securing the withdrawal of the notes delivered to Mr. De Valera. Mr. Churchill hoped that you would not agree to Mr. De Valera's request, and, indeed, expressed the wish that Canada might see its way to associating itself with the United Kingdom and United States representations on the subject. The message pointed out that the security reasons which made the United Kingdom and United States request the withdrawal of Axis representatives from Dublin applied as much to the Canadian expeditionary force as to the British and American formations.

Wrong and I told him we would convey this message to you and let him know, probably later in the day, what action, if any, you thought you should take in the matter. We pointed out that the Canadian Government had not been consulted about this new approach to the Irish Government, and had only been informed of it after it had taken place. In the circumstances, I thought it extremely unlikely that the Canadian Government would be prepared to consider associating itself, formally and belatedly, in the way Mr. Churchill had suggested. We would be very glad to see the Irish Government compel the withdrawal of Axis diplomatic representatives from Dublin, but the measures taken did not seem very well designed to achieve the end in view. Even in the case of Argentina, the United States had gone to some pains to present a dossier of evidence of subversive activities carried on by Axis diplomatic agents, and the United Kingdom had completed the case by arresting an Argentine consular employee who had been proved to be an Axis agent. These were new facts which enabled the Argentine Government to alter its policy toward the Axis while maintaining the appearance of acting as a free agent. We had not seen the text of the British and American notes, but understood that they did not