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*Mémorandum*¹*Memorandum*¹

March 10, 1939

DIPLOMATIC AND HIGH COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS

I understand Council does not consider it advisable to ask Parliament this Session to provide for any additional Canadian legations in South America or elsewhere, or additional High Commissioners. [*except to Ireland*]²

There are a number of collateral questions that require consideration arising out of proposals by other governments to send representatives to Canada.

1. *Irish Free State*

The Irish Free State is again raising the question of the appointment of a High Commissioner to Canada. The United Kingdom has indicated it would be helpful to the situation if we should agree to appoint a High Commissioner to Ireland. Council has concluded that while we might agree to receive an Irish representative and to appoint a Canadian representative to Dublin in return, this decision can best be made when Mr. de Valera is here. [*preferably—if desired sooner could be arranged*]²

A cable was sent Mr. Massey to ascertain Mr. de Valera's plans. A reply has just been received (both attached).³

Attached is also a draft reply³ to Walshe's enquiry regarding the appointment of John Hearne. It is quite possible they will like to have the matter settled before June for purposes of estimates or of making their arrangements with Great Britain, but if so they can say so in their reply.

2. *Brazil*

You will recall that last May the British High Commissioner's Office informed us that the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs had discussed with the British Ambassador the question of how the Canadian Government would view the suggestion, were it made, for the creation of a Brazilian Legation in Canada. In conversation with the Canadian Government Trade Commissioner at Rio a member of the Brazilian State Department put the question somewhat differently, namely the possibility of an exchange of Ministers. The Brazilian idea was that failing any individual arrangement Canada might perhaps appoint a Minister for Eastern South America, i.e., Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil, "with of course headquarters in Rio". Sir Gerald Campbell spoke about this again in September and was asked to inform the British Ambassador that the Canadian Government had received

¹ O. D. Skelton au Premier ministre/O. D. Skelton to Prime Minister.

² Commentaire entre crochets par W. L. Mackenzie King.

Comment in square brackets by W. L. Mackenzie King.

³ Non reproduits/not printed.