

COPY

CANADIAN LEGATION C281780
WASHINGTON
June 6, 1940

Private

Dear Dr. Skelton,

With reference to the attached despatch concerning my conversation this morning with Mr. Breckenridge Long, afterwards I called upon Mr. Hickerson and reiterated what I had said to Mr. Long, emphasizing in strong words that I believed we had a right to feel disturbed about their somewhat high-handed action in proceeding to make this important change in international policy within a few hours' notice. Mr. Hickerson gave me his word that he had not heard a thing about it until he reached the office this morning, when Mr. Wailes informed him that Mr. Moffat - who likewise had not been previously informed - was in a rage about the whole business. I am inclined to believe that Mr. Moffat may have sharply discussed the matter with Mr. Long before our arrival, because throughout our conversation Mr. Moffat remained silent and encouragingly nodded his approval when I emphasized to Mr. Long that, in the face of our representations of last September, we had fully expected to be informed of any movement by the Department of State to reconsider the question.

I just want to make it clear here that the three officials of the European Division concerned with Canadian matters have given us their assurances that they were entirely without information of what was being done until Mr. Wailes telephoned to Mr. Reid last evening.

Yours sincerely,

M. M. Mahoney

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Apparently originated with President + Hoover or Attorney General - did not redige implications for us.