

1520.

DEA/614-A-40

*Mémoire du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au Premier ministre*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Prime Minister*

[Ottawa,] January 26, 1943

I am enclosing a rather querulous letter from the Netherlands Minister³⁸, complaining about the difficulties he has had with the Custodian's Office. Some of the difficulties I think are really nothing, others Mr. Groenman is a little inclined to magnify. I attach a draft letter, for your signature, to Groenman, together with a copy of a preliminary note by Mr. Angus[†], examining the specific points which the Netherlands Minister has drawn to our attention. We will take them up at once with the Custodian's Office.

N. A. R[OBERTSON]

1521.

DEA/614-A-40

*Le Premier ministre au ministre des Pays-Bas
Prime Minister to Minister of The Netherlands*

Ottawa, January 30, 1943

Dear Mr. Groenman,

I am hastening to acknowledge your unofficial and confidential letter of January 22nd without waiting for the official Note which you are preparing on the subject of the application of P.C. 3959. I share your pleasure in the fact that relations between Canada and the Netherlands are of the most amicable character and I am happy that you should attribute this, in part at least, to the spirit of active goodwill towards the Netherlands which animates the Canadian Government.

I greatly regret that you should feel that there is anything in the attitude of the Custodian's Office which can be described as striking a discordant note and I am confident that your feeling on this point results from a misunderstanding, or a series of misunderstandings, which can be cleared away. Before any points can be discussed in detail I shall have to await your official Note, and to consult with my Colleague, the Honourable Mr. McLarty, the Secretary of State, under whose direction the Custodian activities lie.

In the meantime, however, I can deal with one of the points which you mention. The practice of the Department of External Affairs in transmitting statements from the Custodian should not be interpreted as implying any dissent from these statements, or any difference in view between the Department of

³⁸ Document 1518.