

His Majesty's Government in Canada, that they are pleased to learn of the proposal of your Government to establish a Legation in Ottawa and that they have ascertained that the appointment of Baron Silvercruys as the first Minister of Belgium to Canada will be entirely agreeable to The King.

I have etc.

NEVILLE BLAND for the . . .

53.

*Mémorandum*<sup>1</sup>

*Memorandum*<sup>1</sup>

December 22, 1936

BELGIAN LEGATION AT OTTAWA—BARON SILVERCRUYS

Mr. Pereira, Assistant Secretary to the Governor-General, brought to my attention the attached telegram from the Secretary to the King. Apparently the Governor-General is anxious to send some reply today.

From the attached copy of the official correspondence on the subject, I think you and Dr. Skelton assumed that the proposal made by Belgium was in the form of an approach to the Canadian Government. While it would have been safer to request the approval of the King from the very beginning, the fact that the proposal was considered to be an approach explains the omission to follow the usual procedure in requesting the approval of His Majesty.

I suggest that I might speak to Mr. Pereira in that sense, adding that under the circumstances the formal request for His Majesty's approval is being made forthwith. Enclosed herewith is a draft telegram<sup>2</sup> to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.

[PIÈCE JOINTE/ENCLOSURE]

*Le secrétaire particulier au Roi au Gouverneur général*

*Private Secretary to the King to Governor General*

TELEGRAM

London, December 21, 1936

Have heard Canadian Government have agreed to establishment of Belgian Legation in Ottawa and to appointment of Minister. I presume that before matter is dealt with, official approval of His Majesty will be sought in usual way.

HARDINGE

<sup>1</sup> L. Beaudry au Premier ministre/L. Beaudry to Prime Minister.

<sup>2</sup> Le doc. 54 est le télégramme envoyé/doc. 54 is the telegram sent.