

In addition to the above considerations there is an even more serious aspect. Having obtained the Yugoslav agrément, we have recommended that the King appoint you as His Canadian Minister in Belgrade and it is expected that His Majesty's approval will be signified at once. It seems to us that we cannot now ask His Majesty the King to accept a recommendation from His Canadian Ministers for your appointment as Ambassador at Havana, particularly as His Majesty would have to be asked to sign a Letter of Credence for you as Canadian Minister in Belgrade, and immediately afterwards a Letter of Credence for you as Ambassador at Havana.

Finally we are somewhat apprehensive regarding the effect which this juxtaposition of appointments would have in the minds of the public in Canada. You and we are well aware of the objective and the motive for the proposal to appoint you Ambassador at Havana, but we do not like to contemplate the effect upon the high regard in which you are held if there were to be confusion and speculation in the public press. Conflicting comment in the press here and in Yugoslavia regarding your appointment to Belgrade and your subsequent appointment as Ambassador in Havana might jeopardize the success of your mission in Belgrade.

It occurs to us that you might like to consider whether there is the possibility of a reflection on your own excellent service in Cuba if you were to make an official request for the raising of the Mission to Embassy and then, owing to unavoidable delaying factors, you were to find it impossible to remain at Havana to take up your duties as the first Canadian Ambassador.

After careful consideration of all the circumstances we have come to the conclusion that it would be preferable to allow the question of the raising of the Canadian Legation to the rank of Embassy to rest on the basis of the informal inquiry which was made in Ottawa through the Cuban Minister here, rather than to press it upon the Cuban authorities by an official request in Havana. We do not know, of course, what the official Cuban reply might be, nor can we anticipate how long the Cuban Congress would take to confirm the anticipated decision of the President.

Even though we cannot proceed with your appointment as Ambassador at Havana at the present time, it may not be very long before you will have that designation, because the Canadian Legation in Belgrade might be elevated to the rank of Embassy when conditions make this step possible. Of course, you may realize that this would have to be examined in the light of the position as to other Canadian Missions in Europe which have not been raised to the rank of Embassy.

I should be most grateful if you would write and inform me of your views after you have considered these aspects.

With kindest regards,
Yours very sincerely,
LAURENT BEAUDRY