

In these circumstances, I should appreciate it if Your Excellency would make an informal submission to His Majesty of the desire of the Canadian Government to receive approval of the policy of raising the rank of the Canadian Minister in Washington to that of Ambassador.

I should appreciate it if this matter could be brought to His Majesty's attention at an early date, and if you would inform me as soon as an indication is received of His Majesty's pleasure. Formal documents of submission are being prepared and will be forwarded for disposition when I receive word that His Majesty has informally approved the policy indicated.

[W. L. MACKENZIE KING]

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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
au haut commissaire en Grande-Bretagne  
Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to High Commissioner in Great Britain*

TELEGRAM 2005

Ottawa, November 8, 1943

SECRET. PERSONAL. The Canadian Government has come to the conclusion that the Canadian Legation to the United States should be raised to the rank of Embassy. In Washington, where all the Latin American countries and Allied Governments in the United Kingdom are represented by ambassadors the continued designation of the Canadian representative as Minister has become unsatisfactory. In a number of other countries an analogous situation prevails. In consequence, the Canadian Government has agreed with the United States Government on the desirability of arranging an exchange of ambassadors rather than ministers, and is submitting a proposal in this sense to the Governor General for transmission to the King in order to secure his approval.

While the present proposal with respect to raising the status of Canadian ministers has particular reference to Washington, this action will imply a willingness to extend the change so as to include, ultimately, all Canadian ministers abroad. Among other considerations, it is felt that the difference between ministers and ambassadors is no longer a real one. There is a clear tendency toward the elimination of legations in favour of embassies.

It is not contemplated that these changes will of themselves involve a change in personnel. The present Ministers will become Ambassadors. No change is contemplated in the position of Canadian High Commissioners.

The Prime Minister has taken the matter up personally with President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill but I should appreciate it if you would confidentially inform the United Kingdom Government of this change which it is expected will be announced very shortly. The Governments of the other Dominions are also being informed.