

136. *Le Premier ministre au Premier ministre par intérim*

TELEGRAM X. 300

Paris, May 6, 1919

SECRET. At secret session of Plenary Conference to-day terms of Peace Treaty were made known. Enormous length of Treaty made any real discussion impossible within limited time available. Much to astonishment of all present Marshal Foch made strong attack upon dispositions of Treaty from military point of view. He declared that there was an entire absence of military safeguards and that France could only be secured by military occupation of Germany up to Rhine. His speech produced great sensation and at its close Clemenceau declared session adjourned. Subsequently Clemenceau engaged Foch in exceedingly animated conversation in Conference Hall. It was announced by French Government during secret session that President Wilson and Lloyd George had undertaken to recommend to their respective legislatures a treaty guaranteeing France against unprovoked aggression by Germany. This announcement was made practically in terms cabled to you last evening. No further request has been made for us for adherence to any such treaty and possibly it will not be made. After long fight we succeeded in eliminating from Labour Convention obnoxious clauses which prevented selection of Dominion representatives for place on Governing Body. President Wilson has acted extremely well in this respect as he overrode advice of his Labour experts. I also secured signed statement from Clemenceau, Wilson and Lloyd George removing any possible doubt as to qualification of Dominion representatives to be selected or named as members of Council under Article four of League of Nations Covenant.

BORDEN

137. *Le ministre des Douanes et du Revenu intérieur
au Premier ministre*

Dear Sir Robert,

Paris, May 6, 1919

As a result of the meeting this morning with representatives of the Government of Great Britain in connection with Aeronautical Convention in which you suggested the possibility of drafting a clause which would leave the traffic between the United States and the Dominion of Canada outside the rules of this suggested convention, some of the representatives who were at the meeting called on me with a clause which we then fixed up slightly and which I informed them would in my opinion be reasonably satisfactory to Canada if inserted as a special clause in the world convention.

They left with the understanding that they were to submit it at the international meeting this afternoon and try and secure its adoption. They were not overly favourable themselves to the clause as they thought it would spoil the principle of their convention, and they apparently had very little hope of getting it accepted by the United States representatives. Copy of clause below:

The present Convention does not apply to the passage between the United States and the Dominion of Canada of aircraft owned by their citizens respectively.