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TELEGRAM

From THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA IN GREAT BRITAIN
To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

SECRET

CYPHER - AUTO

LONDON. June 24, 1948.

No. 939

No. 939. Secret. My telegram No. 936 of today's date:
ERP Commonwealth Liaison Committee.

At the meeting held on the 22nd June, Robert Burns of the Board of Trade was present to speak about the work of the Economic Committee of the European Customs Union Study Group. However, little of what he had to say about the Committee added anything to the information you have received in Commonwealth Relations Office telegram Circular D. 151 of the 19th June and in the papers of the Economic Committee forwarded to you from our Mission in Brussels.

2. His remarks were important rather for the way in which they confirmed by their tone and inference the impression which has been forming in our minds here for some time that the interest of the United Kingdom authorities in a European customs union is waning and that they believe that the problem of European economic coordination would be better tackled by a different approach. Burns emphasized the complexity of the problems involved in creating a customs union, stressed that it was necessary to make haste slowly and reiterated that the United Kingdom representatives had made it absolutely plain to the other members of the Study Group that the United Kingdom was not yet committed in any way. Even his declaration that it was necessary to join energetically in the task of examining the various problems which would be raised by a customs union seemed to suggest that ardour was necessary not so much in order to create a customs union as to convince the other members of the group that enthusiasm for the idea has not ebbed away here. Le Pan asked whether it would be a fair description